



No 20
35p monthly
HAMMER'S

KRONOS, VAMPIRE HUNTER-the full film in comics

CC 02105

HOUSE OF
HORROR

THE MUMMY

SAVAGE BEES

THE INCREDIBLE
MELTING MAN

PRIZEWINNING
COMPETITION



Locked in fierce combat! The revived Kharis (Christopher Lee) and John Banning (Peter Cushing). See this issue's *History of Hammer* for more on *The Mummy* 1959).

Editor: Dez Skinn
 Art Editor: Nigel Money
 Editorial Asst: Alan McKenzie
 Art Assistant: Lori Ward-Cohen
 Photographic Research:
 Jim Carreras
 John Fleming
 Alan Wheatley
 British Film Institute



Writers this issue:
 John Brosnan
 Tony Crawley
 John Fleming
 Steve Moore
 Steve Parkhouse
 Bob Sheridan
 Tise Vahimagi

Artists this issue:
 Bill Phillips (cover)
 Steve Parkhouse
 Patrick Wright

Contents

KRONOS — VAMPIRE HUNTER 5



Complete this issue . . . our comic strip adaptation of Hammer's 1973 movie.

MEDIA MACABRE 11

All the latest news on what's coming soon in the fantasy film world.

MEDIA MACABRE REVIEW 14

This month our critics look at *The Incredible Melting Man* and *Savage Bees*.

DOCTORS OF DEATH 18

Rabid, *Shivers* and *Crimes of the Future* . . . three recent horror films from the mind of David Cronenberg are covered this month.

READERS' ART COMPETITION 23

A chance to win prizes and see your own artwork in print in a future *HoH*!

POST MORTEM 31

Your letters . . . your opinions . . . your page.

HISTORY OF HAMMER FILMS 32

Hound of the Baskervilles, *The Mummy* and *Ten Seconds to Hell* are among the Hammer films featured this issue.

ANSWER DESK 38

In answer to readers' queries, we present checklists of films featuring: *Fu Manchu*, *The Yeti*, Haggard's *She*; plus details on the British *Mystery & Imagination* tv series.

FEARLESS VAMPIRE HUNTERS 40



You've read reams on vampires already, but here's a look at their adversaries . . . from the 1930s to the 1970s.

HELISING'S TERROR TALES 48

"The Hounds of Hell" is the title of this month's comic strip shocker from the files of Professor Van Helsing.

Volume 2, Number 8, May 1978 issue.

Published monthly by Top Sellers Ltd., Columbia-Warner House, 135-141 Wardour Street, London W1V 4QA, England. Concept by Dez Skinn. All editorial and art content copyright © Top Sellers Ltd., 1978, except where otherwise stated. Printed in Finland. Photographs appear by kind permission of the following film distributors: C.I.C., Columbia, E.M.I., Hemdale, 20th Century Fox, United Artists, Warner Bros., Rank, Alpha and Brent-Walker. Any manuscript or artwork submitted to this magazine is sent at the owner's risk, as the editor can accept no responsibility for loss or damage en route.

Editorial

Over the months we've received the occasional letter from die-hard Hammer fans who have noticed our comic strip adaptations each month are not exactly the same as the original movies.

We've had mail asking where the brontosaurus scene came from (in *HoH* 14's One Million Years BC strip), the head-chopping of Mitterhouse (in *HoH* 17's Vampire Circus) and so forth.

And, if not for this very editorial, we'd doubtless receive more, querying parts of our treatment of Captain Kronos.

The answer is that we are offering an exclusive bonus to the reader. As you may be aware, a film goes through various changes before reaching the cinema circuits. Revisions are made at all stages, from pre-production right through to the cutting room floor. So, rather than re-present the edited, censored version, with all its budgetary special effects limitations, we work from the original scripts wherever possible. Thus, in *HoH* alone, you can see the film exactly as it was meant to appear.

Now, in answer to yet more queries (perhaps I should retitile this editorial *Answer Desk Part 2*), here's some information on what's coming up in future issues...

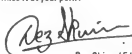
On the comic strip side, we're currently working on *The Devil Rides*

Out (by Doug Moench, John Bolton and Pat Wright, plus Dr Jekyll & Sister Hyde, Chris Wicking & Paul Neary's *Revenge of Frankenstein*, *Brides of Dracula*, and *Enemy From Space* (Quatermass 2)).

On articles, coming up are: *Cine FX*—a look at the growth of special effects on the screen; *Faces of Fear*—a series of features by Hammer's number one make-up man, Roy Ashton; *Flashback*—reviews of fantasy films released exactly ten years ago plus more interviews, behind-the-scenes scoops and previews than you can imagine.

In next month's issue, *HoH* 21 we've a few special treats lined up... *Lee on Lee* is literally what it says. Christopher Lee on his career in horror films; *Shandon—Demon Stalker* our classic comic strip character not seen since *HoH* 16; *3-D Horror Movies*; a *Van Helsing's Terror Tale* by top artist Berni Wrightson, Kerlof's *The Sorcerers*; plus... our biggest behind-the-scenes feature ever as we look at the script, storyboards, casting, directing, location work, model-making, musical effects, editing and production of the new EMI movie *7 Cities to Atlantis*.

Miss it at your peril!



Dez Skinn (Editor)

SPECIAL HoH



SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Each and every month, *HoH* brings you 52 action-packed pages of comic-strips, features, interviews, news and views of the horror film world. Plus lots of rare, never-before-seen photos of the world's most famous monsters and the men who create them.

Subscribe now for the next 12 issues, and have each copy mailed to your door in a sturdy envelope every month. Only £3.00 (including postage, packing and handling) for the next six issues, or take advantage of an annual (12-issue) subscription at £5.50. Remember too that a subscription can make an ideal birthday present for a friend.

Simply fill in the coupon below (or, if you don't want to cut your copy of *HoH*, list the details in a letter) and mail it to the address given, with your cheque/postal order made payable to Top Sellers Ltd.

To: *HoH* Subscriptions Department.

Top Sellers Ltd.
135-141 Wardour Street,
London W.1.

Please find enclosed cheque/postal order/money order to the value of

- ☐ £3.00 for the next six issues. (Outside UK: £3.50)
☐ £5.50 for the next twelve issues. (Outside UK: £6.00)

Please start my subscription with issue number

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

.....

*USA & Canada: All copies sent airmail. Add \$1.00 per copy for airmail.

BINDER OFFER



Available at last! In answer to literally hundreds of pleas and requests we now have in stock the custom-made *HoH* Volume Binders.

Made especially for easy-read reference without taking the magazine out of its binder, you'll be able to keep your collector's item first dozen issues in absolutely mint condition on your bookshelf. And while you're ordering, why not get an extra binder for volume two? That way you'll be able to build up the volume month-by-month.

These binders come in beautiful simulated-leather finish, with the *HoH* masthead logo and title clearly printed down the spine.

Available to *HoH* readers at the bargain price of £2.50 (£3.50 outside UK) including postage and packing.

As a special bonus offer, we also have available binders without the *HoH* title down the spine, for your copies of similar sized magazines so please state when ordering how many binders you require, and whether with or without spine-title.

Cheques/postal orders made payable to Top Sellers Ltd., send your order to:
HoH Binder Offer, Top Sellers Ltd, 135-141 Wardour Street, London, W.1.





CAPTAIN KRONOS

Vampire Hunter

A HAMMER FILM PRODUCTION

Starring
 HORST JANSON Captain Kronos
 JOHN CATER Professor Groat
 JOHN CARSON Doctor Marcus
 CAROLINE MUNRO Carla
 IAN HENDRY Kerro
 SHANE BRIANT Paul Durwood
 WANDA VENTHAM Lady Durwood
 LOIS DANE Sara Durwood

Directed by BRIAN CLEMENS; Screenplay by BRIAN CLEMENS; Photographed by IAN WILSON; Edited by JAMES NEEDS. Produced by ALBERT FENNELL and BRIAN CLEMENS. Released by Bruton Films. Certificate AA.



AND SO ISABELLA SORELL SETS OUT ON A SHORT JOURNEY THROUGH THE DARKLING FOREST...



Script : Steve Moore

Artwork: Steve Parkhouse

NO MORE OF ANYTHING AT ALL



"THIS IS GOOD OF YOU, PAUL... BUT HOW IS YOUR MOTHER, THE LADY DURWARD?"

THE DEATH SHOCKS THE VILLAGE... EVEN THE DURWARD FAMILY SEND A WREATH...



"NO BETTER, I'M AFRAID... BUT SHE'LL ALLOW NO PHYSICIAN NEAR HER... NOT EVEN YOU, DR. MARCUS."

THEN, AS THE FUNERAL ENDS...



"A SAD AFFAIR... ESPECIALLY FOR HER SISTER, ANN. BUT NOW I MUST GET BACK TO THE HOUSE! GOOD DAY, DR. MARCUS!"

"COME HOME WITH US, PETRA... WE COULD DO WITH A HAND, AND IT MIGHT TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THINGS."

"THANK YOU, ANN"

BUT WHEN DR. MARCUS TOO LEAVES THE SCENE



"ANN? ANN, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAN'T YOU SPEAK...?"

YET WHEN MARCUS BRINGS THE ENTRANCED GIRL TO HER SENSES



"PETRA? WAS SHE WITH YOU? WHERE...?"

"P. PETRA..."

GOOD GOD!

"OH, NO, NO NOOOO...!"



THAT NIGHT...



"POINTER... I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS LETTER TO CAPTAIN KRONOS... AND STOP FOR NOTHING UNTIL YOU GET TO HIS CASTLE! IT'LL BE A HARD RIDE... TO THE EASTERN MOUNTAINS..."

POINTER RODE FOR THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS AND FINALLY REACHED THE EASTERN MOUNTAINS...



NONE COULD HAVE ARRIVED MORE SWIFTLY THAN KRONOS, AND SO...

GA-DANG!
GA-DANG!

KRONOS! I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU SINCE THE
WAR! IT'S GOOD...

WILD HORSES COULDN'T
HAVE KEPT ME FROM COMING
TO YOUR AID, OLD FRIEND!
BUT LISTEN—THOSE BELLS!
THAT'S NO WEDDING PEAL!

GA-DANG!
GA-DANG!

THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
AN ALARM, MARCUS!
TO THE CHURCH,
QUICKLY!



MOMENTS LATER...

IT'S VANDA SORELL...
MOTHER OF THE FIRST
GIRL ATTACKED... AT LEAST
IT WAS...

LOOK, GHOST...THE
BLOOD ON THE LIPS...
OUR JOURNEY HASN'T
BEEN WASTED.

IN A CHURCH,
KRONOS? SURELY NO
VAMPIRE COULD...?

SOME VAMPIRES
COULD! WE NEED MORE
INFORMATION ON WHAT
WE'RE UP AGAINST,
THEN WE CAN DEAL
WITH IT! GHOST KNOWS
THE FIRST STEPS...

AND GHOST DOES INDEED
KNOW WHAT TO DO...

DEAD TOADS?
YOU'RE BURTING
DEAD TOADS?

PRECISELY, MY
DEAR... TOAD IN
THE HOLE! ONLY
A FEW MORE...

NONE KNOW OF
GHOST'S WORK...
LEAST OF ALL THE
TWO YOUNG LOVERS
WHO ARRIVE IN THE
FOREST THE NEXT
DAY...

WHERE? I DON'T
SEE ANYONE, MYRA...
COME ON, I'LL WALK
YOU HOME...

GILES... I THOUGHT
SAW SOMEONE OVER
THERE... SOMEONE
REALLY OLD...

AND HAVE MY FATHER
SEE YOU? NO, IT'S ONLY A
LITTLE WAY... YOU CAN
WATCH ME UNTIL I GET
CLEAR OF THE WOODS...

AND AFTER ALL, WHAT
COULD HAPPEN IN
SUCH A SHORT STRETCH
OF PATH?



FOR MYRA IS ONLY
OUT OF HER LOVER'S
SIGHT FOR A FEW
SECONDS...

BUT THOSE FEW
SECONDS ARE
ENOUGH...

MYRA!

MYRA... MYRA
MY LOVE...



SOON...

SHE THOUGHT SHE SAW SOMEONE... SOMEONE OLD... BUT I WATCHED HER ALL THE TIME... THERE WASN'T ANYONE NEAR HER!

YOU RINGED THIS AREA, GROSS? GOOD... WE'LL CHECK...

BUT WE DEAL IN LEGEND, MARCUS... THERE'S AN OLD RHYME: "IF A VAMPIRE SHOULD BESTRODE CLOSE TO THE GRAVE OF A DEAD TORD, THE VAMPIRE'S HEART ITS LIFE SHALL GIVE, AND SUDDENL THE TORD SHALL LIVE!"

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, KRONOS... I'M A MAN OF SCIENCE, BUT...

BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE...

BUT YOU MUST... THE TORD BEARS WITNESS... OUR VAMPIRE CAME THIS WAY...

NOW WE KNOW WHERE TO START LOOKING... THE SOUTH END OF THE VILLAGE...

UNLESS IT CAME THROUGH THE VILLAGE...

THE TAVERN'S AT THE SOUTH OF THE VILLAGE... WE'LL START THERE TOMORROW...

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO'S INCREDIBLY OLD?

NO... FOR ONE WHO'S YOUNG... YOUNGER THAN THEY SHOULD BE! IT'S NOT BLOOD OUR VAMPIRE STEALS... BUT YOUTH!

AND TALKING OF THE YOUNG... AND THE BEAUTIFUL... IN THE DURNARD MANSION...

HOW'S MOTHER, SARA?

JUST THE SAME, PAUL... SHE WON'T EAT... SHE JUST LIES THERE LIKE LIKE A DEAD THING!

AND SHE LOOKS SO OLD, PAUL! SHE USED TO BE SO BEAUTIFUL... BUT THE LAST THREE YEARS HAVE AGED HER SO MUCH...



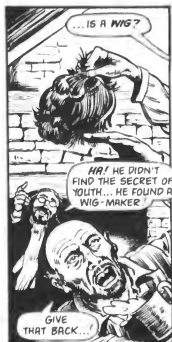
SINCE FATHER DIED, YOU MEAN... BUT SHE'S ONLY A DURNARD BY MARRIAGE... WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER WON'T HAPPEN TO US... ALL THE DURNARDS ARE NOTED FOR THEIR YOUTHFULNESS...

NEXT DAY FINDS KRONOS ALSO NOTING THE YOUTHFUL...

SO YOU'RE GARTH MARKSTEIN... THEY SAY YOU CAME BACK FROM THE CITY A WHILE AGO LOOKING YEARS YOUNGER...

WHAT IF I DID?

OH, WE'RE JUST INTERESTED... THAT FINE HEAD OF HAIR...



HIS MIND FULL OF DARK THOUGHTS, MARCUS RIDES BACK... UNDER A SKY THAT HAS SUDDENLY BECOME EQUALLY BLACK...

THE MASSIVE THUNDERHEAD HAS FORMED SO RAPIDLY IT SEEMS ALMOST UNNATURAL... AND YET THE DARKNESS, AND THE HOWLING WIND, ARE REAL ENOUGH...

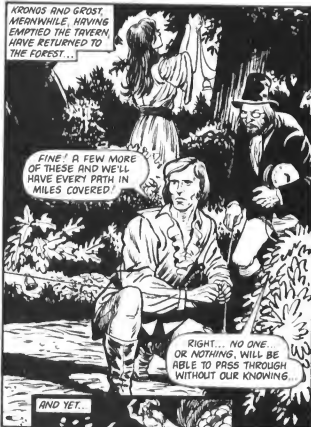
BUT THE DARKNESS PASSES DOWN HEAVILY ON MARCUS, CLOSING IN ON HIM...

AND MARCUS FEELS THE STING OF FEAR... POISONOUS, LIP BITING FEAR...

AND THEN THE STORM BLOWS ITSELF OUT IN AN INSTANT, AND ALL IS AS IT WAS BEFORE... LEAVING MARCUS TO WONDER IF IT WAS FREAK WEATHER...

OR SOMETHING MORE

KRONOS AND GHOST
MEANWHILE, HAVING
EMPTIED THE TAVERN,
HAVE RETURNED TO
THE FOREST...



"FINE! A FEW MORE
OF THESE AND WE'LL
HAVE EVERY PATH IN
MILES COVERED!"

"RIGHT... NO ONE,
OR NOTHING, WILL BE
ABLE TO PASS THROUGH
WITHOUT OUR KNOWING."

AND YET...

AND NEXT DAY FINDS KRONOS, GHOST,
CARLA AND MARCUS AT POSITIONS IN
THE FOREST... WATCHING AND WATCHING...



WATCHING EVERYONE WHO PASSES
WITH SCRUPULOUS ATTENTION...



UNTIL...

A BELL!
OVER THERE...



TOO LATE!
TOO LATE AGAIN!

"THIS THING'S BECOMING
AN EPIDEMIC... LIKE A
PLAGUE OF VAMPIRES! AND
A PLAGUE ON THEM! THE
BELL-TRAP NEVER FAILED
BEFORE!"



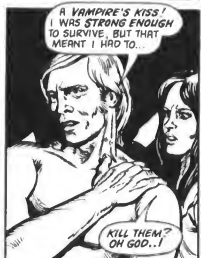
THAT NIGHT...

"YOU HATE THEM,
DON'T YOU, KRONOS.
BUT WHY? WHY IS IT
SUCH AN OBSESSION?"



"I ONCE WENT OFF TO FIGHT
A WAR... LEAVING MY MOTHER AND
YOUNGER SISTER BEHIND. WHEN I
RETURNED, MY SISTER GREETED
ME WITH A KISS..."

A VAMPIRE'S KISS!
I WAS STRONG ENOUGH
TO SURVIVE... BUT THAT
MEANT I HAD TO...



KILL THEM?
OH GOD..!

MEDIA MACABRE

FILM SCENE news

Dawn of the Dead

More weird and wonderful effects promised in the much-awaited George Romero and Dario Argento tie-up, *Dawn of the Dead*. George directs from a script based on his new novel; Dario "presents" the film, being produced by Romero's partner, Richard Rubenstein in association with Claudio Argento and Alfredo Cuomo. The publicity for the movie reads "Where there's no more room in hell... the dead will walk the earth".

Horror Pushed Out?

The main point in all your letters seems to be the same every month. "Where have all the horror films gone?" Turned into sf scripts every last one.

Fortunately a few genuine horrors are still afloat, or about to be made.

Item: The lycanthrope lives anew in America. A writer-director with the odd name of Worth Ketter III is busy with *Wolfman*, the hero of which, Colin Glasgown, is heir to the devil's curse. Sounds good—on paper. We're a little wary, though, of any project claiming to star "an international cast" headed by Earl Owensby as the unfortunate Colin. Earl who...? Actually Earl Owensby is also *Wolfman*'s



producer. So if he wants to class himself as part of an international cast, we suppose he has every right to.

Item: *Dracula* lives on, too. Shooting begins—in all places—Dallas this summer on a \$3,000,000 comedy movie. Title: *Prince Dracula*.

Schlesinger's Alive

Despite—or more likely because of—the tawdry Mexican quickie, *Survive*, about the Andes plane crash where the survivors cannibalised their dead companions to stay alive, the other film about the subject is far from dead, after all.

This being *Alive*, once on John Schlesinger's schedule. United Artists lost interest in the project following the hyped-up release of *Survive*. Now, Paramount have been talking to producer Edgar Scherick and the *Alive* film looks alive again.

Hitler Disaster Movie

To assuage Bavarian government feelings, Peter Cushing's Munich movie, *Hitler's Son* will be known as *Return to Munich* in the Fatherland. On the set, they've been calling it *Hitler's*

First Fantasy Film Fifty

We all know that *Star Wars* is the greatest money-spinner in the history of the screen. Just the other year it was *Jaws*, of course. Before that, came the fierce battle between *The Godfather* and *The Exorcist*. And it was not so very long ago that *The Sound of Music* shook the filmworld by finally toppling 1939's *Gone With the Wind* from top spot as the biggest money-making film that ever was...

While the ups and downs of the last few record-breaking box-office years have been all very interesting, we've been wondering how the broad spectrum of fantasy films fared in such a list of all-time bests. For instance, which proved the more successful in the end? *Carrie* or *Psycho*, *Rosemary's Baby* or *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *The House of Wax* or *The Sentinel*, *Planet of the Apes* or *The Bird*... and come to that, *Westworld* or *Futureworld*...

Variety, the weekly bible of show-business facts and figures, provides all the information in their annual list of box-office champions, old and new. Films that have earned at least \$4,000,000 in distributors' rentals (as opposed to box-office receipts). We've culled our list from theirs, sticking as closely as possible to what *Mo!* would regard as fantasy films—sf or Gothic horror, straight and comedic, with the disaster movies thrown in for good measure. We have, though, deliberately cut out the 007 spy films—fantasies, sure, but not quite what we consider the *Mo!* genre to be. This again, is why only some of Hitchcock's winners are listed—the sheer horrors not his tense suspenseurs. You may disagree with some of our inclusions, but it does help resolve a few arguments...

The dollar figures mentioned represent distributors' rentals in the biggest film market, America and Canada. Double these figures and you'll have some notion of the world-wide accounting... Okay, what do you think, did *Willard* take more money than *Sinbad*...? Read on.

1. <i>Star Wars</i> (Director: George Lucas; 1977).....	\$127,000,000
2. <i>Jaws</i> (Steven Spielberg; 1975).....	121,356,000
3. <i>The Exorcist</i> (William Friedkin; 1973).....	82,200,000
4. <i>The Towering Inferno</i> (John Guillermin; 1975).....	50,000,000
5. <i>Airport</i> (George Seaton; 1970).....	43,300,000
6. <i>The Poseidon Adventure</i> (Ronald Neame; 1972).....	42,000,000
7. <i>Euroquest</i> (Mark Robson; 1974).....	36,094,000
8. <i>King Kong</i> (John Guillermin; 1976).....	35,651,263
9. <i>Young Frankenstein</i> (Mel Brooks; 1975).....	34,150,000
10. <i>The Deep</i> (Peter Yates; 1977).....	31,000,000

11. <i>The Omen</i> (Richard Donner; 1976).....	27,851,000
12. <i>Airport 75</i> (Jack Smight; 1975).....	25,743,000
13. 2001: A Space Odyssey (Stanley Kubrick; 1968).....	24,100,000
14. <i>Close Encounters of the Third Kind</i> (Steven Spielberg; 1977).....	23,000,000
15. <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> (Stanley Kubrick; 1971).....	15,400,000
16. <i>The Hindenburg</i> (Robert Wise; 1975).....	15,067,000
17. <i>Planet of the Apes</i> (Franklin Schaeffer; 1966).....	15,000,000
<i>Rosemary's Baby</i> (Roman Polanski; 1966).....	
19. <i>Airport '77</i> (Jerry Jameson; 1977).....	14,836,000
20. <i>Carrie</i> (Brian De Palma; 1976).....	14,500,000
21. <i>Fantasia</i> (1940).....	14,000,000
22. <i>The Exorcist II: The Heretic</i> (John Boorman; 1977).....	13,900,000
23. <i>Psycho</i> (Alfred Hitchcock; 1960).....	11,200,000
24. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Richard Fleischer; 1954).....	11,000,000
25. <i>Island at the Top of the World</i> (Robert Stevenson; 1974).....	10,200,000
26. <i>Logan's Run</i> (Michael Anderson; 1976).....	9,500,000
27. <i>Willard</i> (Delbert Mann; 1971).....	9,250,000
28. <i>Orcs</i> (Michael Anderson; 1977).....	8,930,000
29. <i>Rollerball</i> (Norman Jewison; 1975).....	8,800,000
30. <i>Two Minute Warning</i> (Larry Pearce; 1978).....	8,695,000
31. <i>Beneath the Planet of the Apes</i> (Ted Post; 1970).....	8,600,000
32. <i>Escape to Witch Mountain</i> (John Hough; 1975).....	8,500,000
33. <i>The Andromeda Strain</i> (Robert Wise; 1971).....	8,341,000
34. <i>Rollercoaster</i> (James Goldstone; 1977).....	8,234,000
35. <i>The Boston Strangler</i> (Richard Fleischer; 1966).....	8,000,000
36. <i>Sleeper</i> (Woody Allen; 1973).....	7,875,000
37. <i>Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger</i> (Sam Wormanmaker; 1977).....	7,700,000
38. <i>Reincarnation of Peter Proud</i> (J. Lee Thompson; 1975).....	7,500,000
39. <i>Grizzly</i> (William Girdler; 1975).....	7,272,000
40. <i>Beyond the Door</i> (Oliver Helms; 1975; Italian).....	7,068,000
41. <i>Westworld</i> (Michael Crichton; 1973).....	7,000,000
42. <i>Survive</i> (Rene Cardone; 1976; Mexican).....	6,813,416
43. <i>Frenzy</i> (Alfred Hitchcock; 1972).....	6,500,000
<i>The Island of Dr. Moreau</i> (Don Taylor; 1977).....	
45. <i>It's Alive</i> (Larry Cohen; 1977).....	6,300,000
46. <i>The High and the Mighty</i> (William Wellman; 1954).....	6,100,000
47. <i>In Cold Blood</i> (Richard Brooks; 1968).....	6,000,000
<i>Food of the Gods</i> (Bert I. Gordon; 1976).....	
49. <i>Race with the Devil</i> (Jack Starrett; 1975).....	5,755,000
50. <i>Escape From Planet of the Apes</i> (Don Taylor; 1971).....	5,560,000

MEDIA MACABRE

Revenge, following a quirky series of *Exorcist*-like incidents. The dialogue coach broke his foot, the publicity man fractured a kneecap, a prop man sprained an elbow, cast and crew were in four car smashes in all, Peter Cushing fell victim to a serious inflammation of the eyes—which also befell director Rod Amateau, who broke a finger, as well. Nothing so far has happened to producer Dr. Gerd Goering (no relation!).

Just for the record, *Hitler's Son* is a movie and not a film, according to Amateau. A movie, he cites as being pure entertainment; a film provokes intellectual thinking. . . .

Meteoric Career

To celebrate the fact that his star-packed *Meteor* marks his 50th year in movies and his 30th as a director, Ronald Neame has added himself to the cast alongside Sean Connery, Natalie Wood, Karl Malden, etc. Neame plays the British representative at the United Nations.

Neame, who apparently vowed he'd never handle another disaster thriller after the multifarious headaches of *The Poseidon Adventure*, has come a long, long way from his beginnings as a messenger boy at Elstree studios, London, in 1928. The first film he worked on was Hitchcock's first British talkie, *Blackmail*, in 1929. A cinematographer on such ventures as *In Which We Serve* (1942), he later produced the most important films of the post-war English cinema, *Great Expectations* (1946) and *Oliver Twist* (1948), before turning director later in 1948.

We're sure *Meteor* will be a cracking movie, but Neame will always be better remembered for his Alec Guinness films, *The Card* (1952), *The Horse's Mouth* (1959) and *Tunes of Glory* (1960) and Maggie Smith's *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1969).

Technical Hitch

Talking of Hitchcock . . . his own cinematic language, Hitchcockese, is turning up in film

Bee-Pictures

1978 looks like going down as the year of the bee-films. Three of them at the last count.

Hard on the heels of Bruce Geller's somewhat ridiculous tale of South American killer bees invading Louisiana (*The Savage Bees*), comes Irwin Allen's *The Swarm*, which is about South American killer-bees invading the entire United States. Well, Allen always did have bigger budgets.

Geller's stars rate as a kind of TV Movie First XI—good old Ben Johnson, Michael Parks, Horst Bucholz and sundry unknowns (and likely to remain so). Allen's cast features a starrier swarm:

Michael Caine, Katharine Ross, Richard Widmark, Richard Chamberlain, Olivia de Havilland, Lee Grant, Jose Ferrer, Patty Duke Astin, Bradford Dillman, Henry Fonda, Fred MacMurray . . . and good old Ben Johnson. Again.

Now both of these films have to do battle with a quickie from Roger Corman's New World Pictures, *Bees*. Director is Jack Hill with a cast headed by John Saxon. Only difference we can see about this one is that the location is Mexico City. Which means, it's (a) either cheaper, not to bother importing the bees, or (b) the story has killer-bees from America taking their revenge on South America. About time, too.



titles. To Hitch, a *McGuffin* is that which is not quite what it seems—the innocent crop-dusting plane that isn't dusting any crops and starts menacing Cary Grant in *North By Northwest*, as one stunning example. Now the Benji writer-producer-director Joe Camp (no comment) is immortalising the expression in a thriller called *The Double McGuffin*. "It's *Saturday night*," explains Camp. "The boys are playing a little game. The winner gets to live . . ." Aha! Ernest Borgnine and George Kennedy are the boys(?). Elke Sommer is . . . honestly . . . playing the Prime Minister. Now there's a *McGuffin* if ever we've heard one.

Moore Vanishes

Latest news on the much headlined plan to re-make Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* is a change of casting. For Roger Moore read George Segal. Very good news!

Stinging Effects

If *The Savage Bees* story was less than brilliant, the make-up effects were first rate. And all the work of one Maurice D. Stein, who suffered so many stings himself that he has to carry a bee-sting antidote with him forevermore—"my doctor insists I've reached my toxin threshold."

No wonder. For the scene of the guy jumping into a pond to escape a killer-swarm, dying slowly, looking more and more swollen every time he comes up for air, Stein says he carved imitation stingers from rose-thorns—and then glued live bees to his actors' faces. And not, we hope, for mere B-picture salaries.

Harper, Italian Style

Finally, news of everyone's favourite horror damsel in distress—she screams so superbly. I refer, of course, to Jessica Harper. She's sticking fast to her new-found Italian career following the *Suspense* triumph. Her latest assignment—*Our Man in Mecca*, with Bo Svenson and Thomas Milian. Sounds bad enough to make even strong men scream!

BOOK news



BLACK ORACLE

There was a time when New York seemed to be the centre of fanzine activity, producing and introducing countless publications during the 1960s. However, the centre of the American fanzine industry now seems to have moved to Maryland—Baltimore in particular. One of the most consistent of these Maryland-based fanzines is George Stovel's *Black Oracle*. This mag can be easily identified by its size—or rather, lack of it. *Black Oracle* measures a mere 4½ by 5½ inches. Despite this

MEDIA MACABRE

quarter-size, however, the mag is filled to the covers with varied articles, reviews and pieces relating to the fantastic cinema. The super-small print may initially strain your eyes, but the blend and quality of the contents will—you will soon realise—make it all worth while.

The current issue (No. 10, *Spring 1977*) contains a most exciting coverage of the Paramount King Kong remake, most aptly entitled "Twas Dino Killed the Beast". This article breaks down the 15 million dollars (spent on promotion) De Laurentiis myth that the film is "The Most Original Motion Picture Event of All Time". If you're a fan of the real original—the supreme 1933 picture—then this piece will certainly have you cheering.

An interesting observation (with comparisons) on the recent Supernatural theme is made in the article "To the Omen... A Burnt Offering", which deals specifically with *The Omen*, *Burnt Offerings* and *To the Devil... A Daughter*. The author's final analysis may not be in accordance with everyone's opinion regarding these films but the article is a most readable study.

"Sinbad and Symbolism: A Voyage into the Unconscious" is a Freudian look at *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad*—drawing from the film some curious (and obscure) conclusions. Although one would have thought that there are many more important films in the genre to analyse from a psychological viewpoint, this piece puts forward some curious interpretations that should interest those fans who murderously dissect and analyse movies to the *Nth* degree. If you are willing to accept, in terms of symbolism, that the Cyclops "... represents powerful unconscious forces which threaten to overthrow the conscious mind", then you should be quite content with this article.

There is also a lengthy movie-review section, dealing with such titles as *At the Earth's Core*, *Cerrie*, *The Food of the Gods*, *Logan's Run*, *Obsession and Scream*. A particularly interesting section is the record-review chapter, discussing such musical luminaries as Bernard Hermann, Miklos Rozsa, John Barry, Max Steiner, and David Raksin.

On the whole, the 48 pages of *Black Oracle* (number 10) are well worth investigating if your interest in movies strongly favours films of a fantastic nature and your reading requires material with a serious content.

Copies of *Black Oracle* No. 10 (*Spring '77*) are available from George Stover at P.O. Box 10005, Baltimore, Maryland 21204, U.S.A. Overseas orders should send International Money Orders for \$1.50 (which includes air mail).

T.V.



MIDNIGHT MARQUEE

One of the most respected of the top three English-language fantasy-film fanzines, *Gore Creatures* has steadily progressed since starting in 1963 to become a widely-read and much sought-after publication. However, despite the magazine's long and increasingly successful life-span, editor Gary Svehla has never been allowed to forget the somewhat juvenile title of his mag during recent years: the market that the magazine eventually began to cater for was on occasions reluctant to entertain a movie periodical calling itself "Gore Creatures".

With magazine publication extremely dependent on achieving as wide a circulation as possible, Gary Svehla finally decided that in order to see his mag on the shelves of the more prominent book and magazine stores around the world he would have to change the title. The change also offered him the opportunity to further develop the style of the magazine—thus the introduction of *Midnight Marquee*.

What would have been the offset-printed issue number 26 of *Gore Creatures* has now—most pleasingly—become the new glossy-paper, wrap-around *Midnight Marquee* (though Gary has wisely retained the continuity of issue numbers).

The new-style magazine is a solid 44 pages of sheer delight for serious film students and buffs. The lead feature, "Ritual and Heroism in the Fantastic Film", takes a most perceptive look at the components which make up the solitary hero in the fantasy cinema. The piece, which covers such popular titles as *Island of Lost Souls*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *The Incredible Shrinking Man* and *Curse of the Demon*, explores the motivations of the hero, his actions and behaviour and the validity of his role in the genre.

Walter Schumann's score for the atmospheric *Night of the Hunter* is given a short but worthwhile analysis; any concern among buffs regarding the inclusion of this film as a "horror" film will be dissipated by this particularly

pleasing article. Written in a somewhat similar vein is a most informative piece entitled "The Black Cat: A Prevalence of Perversion". This is a very carefully thought-out observation and study of the 1934 Universal classic—a study that is likely to provoke serious re-examination of the film by many students and fans.

Quite an enjoyable piece—though unfortunately approached from quite a fan-clubbish angle—is one on the movie career of actress Allison Hayes. The article tends to view the late Ms. Hayes as being something of a Raquel Welch of the Royal Shakespeare Company—but, nevertheless, it makes interesting reading (and as a bonus includes her

fantasy filmography). Wrapping up the feature material in this issue is a short interview with Zita Johann—familiar to horror buffs mainly as the heroine in Karl Freund's *The Mummy* (1932).

Rounding-out the mag there are the regular columns dealing with fanzine reviews, movie reviews, and readers' letters.

Midnight Marquee is an 8 1/2" x 11" format fanzine published irregularly, consisting of 44 pages. Available from Maya Merchandising of 52 Roydene Road, London SE18 1QA, at £1.20 (inc. post & packing), and/or from Gary J. Svehla at 5906 Kaven Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21206, U.S.A. at \$1.75. T.V.

CLASSIFIED

HoH CLASSIFIED: 10p per word, your name and address free. Payment with advertisement copy to: *HoH Classified Advertisement Dept., Top Sellers Ltd., 135-141 Wardour Street, London W.1, England. We will inform you in which issue your ad will appear.*

For sale: Famous Monsters, Castle of Frankenstein, Fantastic Monsters, Creepy, Eerie, Vampirella, etc. Hundreds in stock. Also buy/trade many early numbers + imports, especially F.M. 1 at £12. SAE. House of Wax, 34 Highland Road, Emsworth, Hants, England.

Wanted: House of Hammer 6 (good condition). Contact with your selling price. Rene Deru, 56 Heathfield Cres., Mile Oak, Brighton, Sussex, England.

For latest of strip Mach 3 send 30p PO to A. Cottingham, 54 Thorpe Park Road, Peterborough, England.

For sale: Horror magazines—Famous Monsters, Modern Monsters, Monsters of the Movies and many more. Also paperbacks of horror movies and hardback horror film

books. SAE for lists, all reasonable prices. Mr. D. Peckett, 80 Rothbury Gardens, Lobley Hill, Gateshead NE11 0AU, Tyne and Wear, England.

Creepy, Eerie, Vampirella. Considered the best in horror, fantasy and science fiction black and white comic magazines. Samples £1 each, M. Green, 3 Bentley Green, Salford 7, England.

Horror Film magazines from the 1960s. Sample issues £1.50 each. M. Green, 3 Bentley Green, Salford 7, England.

Nightmare, Psycho, Scream. Original American editions. Two issues for £1. M. Green, 3 Bentley Green, Salford 7, England.

Wanted: HoH 3, 4, 5 and 6. Contact me with prices. Pauline Smith, 88a Kelso Quadrant, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Now available! Previously unpublished poster by HoH artist John Bolton. Each copy personally signed and numbered by John. Edition limited to 500. Price £1.25 including p & p. OVR Comics, 111a Devons Road, London E3, England.



Review by John Brosnan

Some movies can be described in just one word and the word that best describes

The Incredible Melting Man is *blechhh!* I mean, I've seen some nauseating things on the screen over the years, from the green vomit in *The Exorcist* to Barbra Streisand's performance in *A Star is Born*, but this *takes* the cake. Uh oh, the mention of food is a mistake in connection with this film. The night I saw it I'd intended to have a pizza afterwards but as the "thing" resembles a pile of walking pizza filling, plus

other substances over whose origins we will draw a discreet veil, I found I'd lost my appetite for pizza by the end of the show, as well as for all other forms of food.

The "thing" I refer to is all that remains of Colonel Steven West after a space flight to Saturn. Well, we're *told* he's been to Saturn but all we see on the screen is some NASA footage of one of the Apollo moon missions (and when Col. West, staring out of his window, says: "Gee! seeing the sun through the rings of Saturn sure is something!" there's a cut to a

THE INC MEL M



REDIBLE TING ANIIIIII



close-up of the sun's corona whereas, of course, from Saturn the sun would appear rather dim). During the flight there's an unexplained flash of bright light and one presumes that it's responsible for the unpleasant transformation that West undergoes, though again it's not very clear just what it is.

We next see West swathed in bandages in a hospital bed and in obvious discomfort. He staggers up, rips off the bandages and reveals that his face and hands have become nothing but vast open sores. Enraged, he immediately attacks a nurse, chasing her through the apparently deserted hospital and into the road outside. The next time we see the nurse she's lying dead on an autopsy table and being examined by two doctors, one of them being the film's hero, Dr. Ted Nelson. As the whole mishap in space must be kept top secret, Dr. Nelson receives orders that he must track down West practically on his own.

West, meanwhile, is deteriorating rapidly—his

flesh taking on the appearance of the pizza filling I mentioned earlier, all red and yellow and runny. Anything he touches is covered with strings of sticky slime. And as he melts, apparently, so his appetite for fresh meat increases. His second victim, after the nurse, is a lone fisherman by a stream. The fisherman disappears into the bushes and the next thing we see is his head thrown into the stream. The camera follows it downstream and then, in one of the film's many peaks of sheer bad taste, we see the head topple over a waterfall and burst open on the rocks below... all in slow motion.

General Perry (Myron Healey) arrives in plain-clothes to assist Dr. Nelson in the search, so now there is a total of *two* involved in a hunt for an astronaut who has recently been sent to Saturn at the cost of countless millions of dollars and the efforts of thousands of people. They don't have much luck, which isn't surprising, particularly as they seem to spend most of their time hanging around Nelson's home





where his attractive wife Judy (Ann Sweeny) is waiting for the arrival of a baby.

West's toll of victims mounts up, including Judy's mother who was on her way to the Nelson home for a visit, but no matter how many people he eats it doesn't affect the disintegration process (we see in loving close-up his right eye slowly trickle out of its socket and down his face...). Leaving the General to look after his sleeping wife, Dr. Nelson goes out to search for her missing mother. Of course, no sooner has he gone than West shambles into view, heading towards Nelson's house.

When Nelson returns, accompanied by a policeman, they find the General dead on the front lawn. To his relief, Nelson finds his wife unharmed.

Eventually Nelson and the cop track down West in the local electricity-generating station. "We want to help you," Nelson tells him but West rightly seems aware that the offer is a redundant one. The cop ends up being flung onto some high voltage wires, and when Nelson attempts to prevent two security men from

shooting West he himself is shot dead for his efforts. West then staggers off, his condition worsening... and finally he dissolves, revoltingly, into a puddle of clothing and goo beside a metal shed. The film ends with a shot of a disgruntled cleaner shovelling the remains into a garbage can... a fitting image.

If the plot sounds vaguely familiar it should do, as it owes a lot to Hammer's *The Quatermass Experiment* (and the 1959 rip-off *First Man Into Space*) and, of course, *Frankenstein*, but whereas those two films had a great deal of style, being made with care and intelligence, *The Incredible Melting Man* is an exploitation film of the purest kind—it has practically no redeeming features. The direction is almost non-existent, the script illogical and nonsensical, the acting perfunctory, etc.—only Rick Baker's make-up for Alex Rebar, as the melting man of the title, demonstrates any creative effort. It's revolting and nauseating but by being so it fulfils its purpose. If Baker hadn't been able to create a make-up effect so repulsive then the film would have been totally unwatchable—the responsibility for entertaining the audience would have fallen entirely on the writer and director, William Sachs, and he certainly wasn't up to the task.

So, thanks to Baker (he was the one inside the ape suit in the remake of *King Kong* and also designed most of the aliens in *Star Wars*) *The Incredible Melting Man* isn't a boring movie. It may be an awfully bad movie but isn't boring and these days that's not a quality to be sneezed at. Just don't plan to eat after you've seen it.

The Incredible Melting Man (1977)

Alex Rebar (as Colonel Steven West), Burr DeBanning (Dr. Ted Nelson), Myron Healey (General Perry), Michael Aldredge (Sheriff Blake), Ann Sweeny (Judy Nelson), Julie Drazen (Carol).

Written and Directed by William Sachs, Director of Photography Willy Curtis, Edited by James Beshears, Special Effects and Makeup by Rick Baker, Music by Arlon Ober, Associate Producers Peter Cornberg and Robert L. Fenton, Produced by Samuel W. Gelfman, A Rosenberg-Gelfman Production. Released by Columbia-Warner Film Distributors Ltd. Time: 84 mins.

The S

Review by John Brosnan

This is a dangerous film. Avoid it at all costs. If you find yourself trapped in a cinema with it you will first experience a sharp pain in the brain followed by a spreading numbness throughout your body caused by an intense attack of boredom. Chances of a complete recovery are slim and there is no antidote.

Basically *The Savage Bees* is yet another variation on *Jaws*: a community is threatened by a powerful natural force; there are a number of attacks on isolated victims before the danger is recognised; the authorities are slow to take the proper steps even when informed of the situation; finally there is a showdown between the protagonists and the "monster" and naturally the former are the ultimate victors. In this case the "monster" is a swarm of killer bees that invades Louisiana after travelling up



from South America in a banana boat. The bees first attack and kill a couple of crewmen on a freighter, a little girl on her way to church, and a dog. The dog turns out to belong to the local sheriff (Ben Johnson) and it's only when he insists that a young doctor at the town's mortuary carry out an autopsy on the dead animal that the existence of the killer bees is discovered. It just so happens that the doctor (Michael Parks) has had a recent romance with an entomologist (Gretchen Corbett) and he immediately asks her for some expert advice. She reveals that the bees are of the African variety—a species noted for both its aggression and the strength of its venom. Only a few stings are needed to kill a man.

Naturally they attempt to alert the city authorities but as New Orleans is in the middle of its Mardi Gras celebrations the Mayor is reluctant to take the threat seriously, leaving them to cope with the problem on their own. As there's a danger that the bees might spread out and interbreed with local species if the



Savage Bees

queen isn't destroyed it's imperative that the whole swarm be captured intact. So while the sheriff organises a search to locate the swarm, the doctor and the girl entomologist arrange to have a Brazilian bee expert (Horst Buchholz) flown up to help with the operation. At the same time they rekindle their romance. . . . "It took a swarm of killer bees to bring you back to me," murmurs the girl. Ouch!

The Brazilian bee expert arrives and soon takes charge, issuing orders and posing heroically with his shirt undone. With his help the swarm is finally located in a small diner on a remote country road. (I still can't figure out how he found them; he simply pointed at the shack and said: "They're in there.") He then dons his special, silver, bee-proof costume and rides off towards the shack on the bonnet of the girl's Volkswagen. While the girl waits in the

can be controlled. Somebody remembers that there's an enclosed sports stadium in the city that fits those requirements—the only problem is getting the car to it.

We then see the bee-covered Volkswagen, preceded by a police car, moving slowly through a New Orleans street. A horde of extras, probably numbering as many as nine or ten, scurry for safety as they hear the police message from the loudspeaker: "Clear the street . . . there is a swarm of killer bees behind us." (Not as memorable as the line in the film *The Night of the Lepus* when a policeman bursts into a drive-in cinema and tells the audience: "Attention, there's a herd of killer rabbits coming your way.")

They eventually make it to the sports stadium, the temperature is slowly lowered and, after several moments devoid of almost any tension,



car he goes inside the diner and, sure enough, finds the bees, as well as a few dead bodies. But while he's attempting to get the queen two young refugees from the Mardi Gras, dressed in pirate gear, drive up and demand service. They only realise something is wrong when the bees begin to attack them, causing them to leap about in a bizarre dance of death. When the bee expert foolishly goes outside to try and help them (though it must have been obvious to him there was nothing he could do to save them) his suit is slashed open by the "pirate's" flailing sword and he too is fatally stung (the who lives by the bee dies by the bee, it seems).

The bees then switch their attention to the girl in the car, covering her Volkswagen like a living carpet in an attempt to break in. When the doctor and the police arrive on the scene she is well and truly trapped. But after some discussion a possible solution is discovered—it seems that the bees fall asleep at a temperature of 45 degrees Fahrenheit so all they have to do is move the car to a place where the temperature

the bees fall asleep, having been beaten to this blissful state by the audience some time ago.

It's a pretty shoddy film—cheaply made and directed by former TV director Bruce Geller with as much zing and excitement as a computer. The script seems machine-manufactured too—everything follows a totally predictable pattern and the dialogue could have come from some kind of Letraset kit ("Plot Variation Number 323: Just apply to blank page, press, then remove backing sheet"). But the other main problem with it is that bees aren't very effective as a cinematic menace. They don't generate much in the way of unease or fear, unlike spiders, worms or even ants, so film makers have to work really hard in order to imbue them with any feeling of horror or danger. So far no film maker has succeeded in this. Freddie Francis certainly didn't in *The Deadly Bees*, a 1967 Amicus film, and neither does Geller in this one. It remains to be seen, at the time of writing, how Irwin Allen has tackled the problem in his multi-million dollar

epic *Swarm*. It will no doubt be much more spectacular than *The Savage Bees* but I have a strong feeling that it too will be a lot of buzz about nothing.

The Savage Bees (1976)

Ben Johnson (as Sheriff McKew), Michael Parks (Dr. Jeff Durand), Gretchen Corbett (Jeannette Devereux), Horst Buchholz (Dr. Jorge Mueller), Bruce French (Police Lieutenant), James Best (Pelligrino), Christine Ellsworth (Pirate Girl), Kenneth Lorenzen (Pirate Boy).

Produced and Directed by Bruce Geller, Screenplay by Guerdon Trueblood, Director of Photography Richard Glouner, Music by Walter Murphy, Technical Advisors Kenneth Lorenzen and Norman Gary, Ph.D., Edited by George Hively and Bud Frieden, Makeup by Maurice Stein, Executive Producers Don Kirchner and Alan Landsburg. Released by Columbia Film Distributors Ltd. Time: 90 mins.

Shivers, *Rabid* and the lesser-known *Crimes of the Future* and *Stereo* are four recent contemporary horror films that all come from the mind of young Canadian writer-director David Cronenberg. Already he has earned himself the title of "the Canadian Roger Corman", because of his low cost, high profit products. This issue we look at his unusual approach to horror filming, and his stock-in-trade gimmick of . . .

Doctors of DEATH



feature by John Fleming

Shortly before he began work on *Shivers*, Canadian director David Cronenberg had a nightmare: "I dreamt I was in a cinema with an audience. Certain members of the audience contracted a disease from the screen and then there was a certain amount of antagonism between those who got the disease and those who were immune."

In all Cronenberg's films, there is a conflict between those who are "normal" and those who are different. He graduated in English Literature from the University of Toronto. But he had enrolled at first on an Honours Science course. Then, he says: "I found that the people on the course were completely different from me. At the time, they were to me the kind of aliens that people my films. They were recognisably human beings . . . yet there was something quite different about them."

He made his first film for \$5,000 at the age of 27. *Stereo* (1969) is set in a Canadian institute, where parapsychologist Luther Stringfellow operates on six young adults. He removes their power of speech then, by brain surgery, increases their ability to perform telepathy. But, for Cronenberg, telepathy was just an excuse. "I wanted very definitely," he said, "to create the feeling that you are watching aliens from another planet."

To create an unreal effect, he used multiple-frame printing to make the characters move in a "kind of jerky slow motion". He also shot the film without any synchronous sound or music (which helped keep costs down). The soundtrack is made up of impersonal readings of scientists' observations.

This cold, clinical (and difficult-to-watch) approach was continued in his next film *Crimes of the Future* (1970). It is set in the near future at another fictional Canadian institute: The House of Skin. This institute treats those affected by some "severely pathological" skin diseases caused by modern cosmetics. The patients are men. All women die before puberty from the mysterious *Rouge's Malady*. The effect of this disease on men is an oozing of fluids. A white, creamy substance oozes from their ears. A thick, brown, chocolate-like substance oozes from their mouth and noses. Like liquefied dried blood. The fluids are highly attractive and tasty. Other people are tempted to lick and eat the substances. As in Cronenberg's other films, the cause of infection and transmission of the disease is sexual.

Not far away, at the Institute of Neo-Venerical Disease, a man has been infected and his body is creating unique and highly-complex organs which sprout from his body but have no apparent purpose. (In Cronenberg's *Rabid*, the unique organs reappear with a purpose: to kill.) Straw-like tails push out of one nostril. The doctors think these may be nerve-endings from the man's

brain, but they are not sure. No one is sure of anything.

The film's narrator is Adrian Tripod. He talks in a lost, wandering voice, unable to control or even understand what is happening around him. Eventually, he becomes involved in a plan to save the human race.

Crimes of the Future, like *Stereo*, was shot with no synchronous sound and is very much in the "underground" film category. When I saw it, eight people walked out (presumably from boredom) and many others kept looking at their watches and yawning. Cronenberg's next film, though, was a slam-bang eye-popping commercial exploitation feature.

He explained: "I had a dream. My mouth was open and this thing crawled out. I was lying in bed—absolutely neutral atmosphere—and that was the kernel of the film."

The working-title was *Orgy of the Blood*



Shivers/The Parasite Murders (1974) takes place in a luxury block of flats. Dr. Merrick (Ronald Mlodzik) attempts to destroy the parasite he has created, killing his "guinea pig" in the process. Satisfied that he is successful, he commits suicide (top right). Unfortunately, his victim has passed the parasite on to Nicholas Tudor (Alan Migicovsky) who sets out on a spree of assault and murder (left). Meanwhile, the parasites are spreading through the building and attacking the other residents (above).

Parasites. On release, this was changed to *The Parasite Murders*. The French-Canadian title was *Frissions*. And, in Britain, it was known simply as *Shivers* (1974). Set in a high-rise apartment block isolated on an island in Montreal, it is a variation on the theme successfully used for *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and *Night of the Living Dead*. A whole community is taken over by an outside force until the few remaining "normal" people are faced with a massive majority of infected humans. It is the

normal people who are the "freaks".

Again, the disaster is started by a doctor operating on a patient. The resultant parasites look like the objects which dogs are not supposed to deposit on clean city streets. They carry a combination of aphrodisiac and venereal disease—a fact which brought some outraged cries from the press. At home, the Canadian Film Development Corporation was criticised for giving such a "repellent" movie financial backing. In Britain, *Shivers* was called "degrading"

(*Sunday Times*), "nauseous" (*Daily Express*) and "absolutely disgusting" (*London Evening News*). In fact, even producer Ivan Reitman had originally turned the film down as "too disgusting", but he later changed his mind when Cinepix of Canada became involved in the project.

David Cronenberg had his own reasons for making the film this way, though. . . . "During the three years that I wrote the film, my father was dying and we were very close. It was a quite horrible death. No reason for it. It was just bad. Catharsis: that's what the film can do. It's a release of inner tension to get involved with a film like that and have it end the way it does."

Cronenberg himself designed the "bug", as it was affectionately known by the film-crew. Special effects were handled by Joe Blasco, who normally worked as a make-up man for TV's *Lawrence Welk Show* in Los Angeles. The results were remarkable. At the start of the movie, a girl's stomach is slit open with a scalpel. The man who has performed the operation then pours steaming acid into the stomach and slits his throat open with the scalpel.

He is a doctor who has been trying to breed a parasite which can take over the functions of a human organ. The parasites, though, start to run, crawl and leap amuck spreading their insanity-causing properties throughout the enclosed community. Soon, people are spewing up blood and bugs everywhere: into baths, onto the floor, out of the window. One little shower of blood and a bug from a high window goes sailing down onto the plastic umbrella of two old ladies walking below. "Oh poor birdie!!" says one: "They're always crashing into tall buildings." The bug creeps away into the undergrowth.

In one of the most effective special effects sequences, the bugs can be seen moving just under the skin of a man's stomach. Far more effective than anything in *The Exorcist*. In another scene, while two of the film's heroes are talking about Man being "an over-rational animal that's lost touch with its body", a girl (played by Barbara Steele) in another room steps into her bath and lies down in the water. The plug rises and out creeps a bug, moving from her feet up towards her torso. As she flails about, knocking over and breaking a glass, the bath-water turns a mixture of blood-red and bug-brown, then drains away down the plug-hole. The girl steps out of the empty bath, not realising that jagged pieces of the broken glass are lying on the floor. She puts her foot down on the floor and sharp glass rips the soft flesh of her foot. But she shows no reaction, unaware of what is happening to her.

Elsewhere, a rapacious man attacks a woman who sticks a two-pronged meat-fork into his neck; a woman cripple is attacked by a bug which crawls up her stick; an adam's apple swells as a bug surges up inside a girl's throat; an insane negro's skull is smashed in with a crow-bar



Crimes of the Future (1970). Above: Cut down by Rouge's Malady, a young man lies unconscious in the clinic set up to combat the disease. Below: The film's hero, Adrian Tripod, eats the substance oozing from a victim's body.



and everything begins to look too much like *Night of the Living Dead*. Victims of the bugs suddenly develop a glazed look and uncertain stagger which they did not have earlier in the film. They start to group together, attacking the few people who remain uninfected. The whole of Montreal is threatened. All this proved too much for the good people of Cambridgeshire, England. After complaints that some scenes

were indecent, the local Council banned *Shivers*. Britain's National Board of Film Censors had passed the film uncut because they believed (rather oddly) that the film had a message: "That the permissive society may be the result of this new form of plague."

David Cronenberg defends his work more simply by saying: "The true subject of horror films is death and anticipation of death,



Rabid (1977). Above and below: Victims of the disease seek out and attack those who are tainted in an effort to replenish the blood lost during their own infection.



and that leads to the question of *Man as body* as opposed to *Man as spirit*. All my films have a strong physical consciousness. Being a mind in a body is a conundrum especially if, as happened with my father, the body starts to go and the mind has not."

Whatever the reasons Cronenberg had for making *Shivers* so explicit, the film was a financial success; it won First Prize at the 1975 Sitges Horror Film Festival; and it

meant he had now moved from "underground" to "mainstream" movie-making.

As a result, he and producer Ivan Reitman teamed again for *Rabid* (reviewed in *HoH* 16).

Rabid, like *Shivers*, is about a strangely-shaped creature which needs to take over human beings' minds and bodies in order to survive. Like *Crimes of the Future*, it features self-generating organs which grow out of

the human body. Like both these films and *Stereo*, the horror clearly results from the ill-advised actions of well-meaning doctors and clinical institutions. Like all David Cronenberg's films, it is about people who are not the human beings they, at first, appear to be. *Rabid* relies on tried and tested formulae. There is nothing new. It is basically a re-working of *Shivers*. I hope Cronenberg's next film will not be another re-working of previous films. In horror films, I prefer the phrase "ad nauseum" to mean something else.

Stereo (1969)

with Ronald Mlodzik, Iain Ewing, Jack Messinger, Clara Mayer, Paul Mullholland, Arlene Mlodzik, Glenn McCauley.
Produced, Directed, Written, Photographed and Edited by **David Cronenberg**, Production Assistants **Stephan Nosko**, **Pedro McCormick** and **Janet G. M. Good**. An Emergent Films Production.
Time: 65 mins

Crimes of the Future (1970)

with Ronald Mlodzik, Tania Zolty, Jon Lidolt, Jack Messinger, Paul Mullholland, William Haslam.
Produced, Directed, Written, Photographed and Edited by **David Cronenberg**. An Emergent Films Production.
Time: 70 mins

Shivers (1975)

(Canadian title: *The Parasite Murders*)
Paul Hampton (as *Roger St. Luc*), Joe Silver (*Rollo Linsky*), Lynn Lowry (*Forsythe*), Alan Migicovsky (*Nicholas Tudor*), Susan Petrie (*Janine Tudor*), Barbara Steele (*Betsy*), Ronald Mlodzik (*Merrick*).
Written and Directed by **David Cronenberg**, Makeup and Special Effects by **Joe Blasco**, Director of Photography **Robert Saad**, Production Manager **Don Carmody**, Produced by **Ivan Reitman**. Released by **Target International Pictures Ltd.**
Time: 87 mins

Rabid (1977)

(Canadian title: *Rage*)
Marilyn Chambers (as *Rose*), Frank Moore (*Hart Read*), Joe Silver (*Murray Cypher*), Howard Ryshpan (*Dr. Dan Keloid*), Patricia Gage (*Dr. Roxanne Keloid*), Susan Roman (*Mindy Kent*), J. Roger Periard (*Lloyd Walsh*), Lynne Deragon (*Nurse Louise*).
Written and Directed by **David Cronenberg**, Produced by **Ivan Reitman**, **Andre Link** and **John Dunning**, Photographed by **Rene Verzier**, Music by **Ivan Reitman**, Distributed by **Alpha Films**, A Cinema Entertainment Enterprises (Montreal) Production.
Time: 90 mins

HoH BARGAIN BOOK OFFERS



Classics Of The Horror Film £4.75
From the days of the silent film to The Exorcist, almost 400 photographs. Soft cover edition.



Fantastic Television £4.75
In-depth coverage of British and American TV Sci-Fi and Fantasy from Batman to Star Trek.



Zombie £2.25
Mummies, zombies and the undead. 112 pages. Soft cover over 200 stills plus colour posters



Savage Cinema £2.25
Hitchcock, Polanski, Kubrick, Peckinpah, etc. 96 pages. ADULTS ONLY.



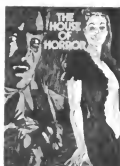
Films Of Boris Karloff £4.75
Paperback, large format, almost 300 pages, THE Karloff book Recommended



Psycho £2.25
Hitchcock's 1960 classic. Over 1,300 frames in 256 page story re-telling.



Freaks £2.25
Cinema of the Bizarre. Monsters, real and made to fit. 112 pages.



House of Horror £2.25
THE Book on Hammer, the full story of the company. 128pps



Robot £2.25
The mechanical monster on film. SF, Frankenstein, Golem, cosmic monsters. 112 pages.



Seal of Dracula £2.25
History of film vampires by Barrie Pattison. 136pps



Kingdom of Kong £2.25
Story of Apes on film from Kong to Planet of Apes. 96pps

All prices include postage and packing. Make cheques payable to Top Sellers Ltd, and send orders to: HoH Bergin Book Basement, Warner House, 135-141 Wardour Street, London W1V 4AP, England.

Books on this page available to readers in Britain only

DRAW A MONSTER

When we first created **HoH** with its unique blend of features and comic strips, we never realised how many horror fans are also budding artists.

Yet over the last two years, we've been constantly inundated with drawings. Many readers have suggested we even start a "readers' artwork" page. But we always felt this was too far removed from our *raison d'être*.

However, rather than ignore the constant flow of requests, we're going to take time out to offer you another **HoH** contest. Movie buffs will have to take a back seat this time round as we present our **HoH Art Competition**.

To enter is simplicity itself. You don't need a huge reference library of books to cross-reference competition answers. Or a vast knowledge of cinema from the start of talkies onwards.

All you do need is a black pen (not pencil, or colour), a piece of white drawing board, card or paper (no larger than 12x10"), and a flair for art.

Over the past 19 issues, you've seen our differingly depicted drawings of Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing and friends. Well, now it's your chance to show us what *you* can do.



We'd like to see a black and white hand drawing of your favourite horror star. Not John Bolton's or Brian Lewis's version or tracings, please, but your very own work.

The drawing can be a straight portrait shot (head and shoulders), full figure, or action scene from a film.

When submitting your entry, be sure to state your

age, as the artwork will be split into two or more categories for judging.

The judges will be Dez Skinn and Nigel Money (**HoH**'s editor and art editor), and their decisions are final.

The competition is open to everybody, but entries must be postmarked no later than July 10th, 1978.

The winning entries will all appear in a future issue of **HoH**, and—who knows?—winners may even find themselves drawing future *Van Helsing's Terror Tales* as professional artists!

The prizes will be:

*A free 6-issue subscription to **HoH** for the ten runners-up in each category.*

And for the winners . . .

A free 12-issue subscription plus . . .

*The original artwork of a **Van Helsing's Terror Tale** from **HoH**!*

Be sure to clip the entry coupon from this page, and enclose it with your artwork to be sent to:

HoH DRAW-A-MONSTER, COMPETITION,
Columbia-Warner House, 135-141 Wardour Street,
London W1V 4QA, England.

. . . and while entering, be sure to let us know what your favourite three features are in this issue, plus the feature you like least of all.





See in the comfort of your own home a terrifying range of the best horror films ever made. Experience the blood and terror of *Dracula*, the violence and destruction of *Frankenstein's creation*, the chilling size of a variety of monsters and the quality and service of Leisurmail.

PROJECTORS AT CUT-THROAT PRICES!



A tremendous value-for-money projector with many features associated with far more expensive models.

GIGANTIC CATALOGUE PACK

Send 50p (free with purchase) for catalogues listing thousands of Super 8mm home movie films covering every possible subject including horror, space travel and science fiction.

VISIT OUR SHOPS

See for yourself our vast range of home movies, projectors, cine cameras and all the accessories you can think of PLUS our range of home leisure items at **MOVIE MAKERS**, 61 Oxford Street, 55 Shaftesbury Ave and 35 Coventry Street, W1.

SOUNDS FANTASTIC
**YELCO Sound
Projector**

Add sound to your film show and you have added more than just another dimension.

Price includes insured delivery by Securicor. **£165.00**

THESE ARE HORRIFIC

- A = B/w silent on 200' spools @ £4.50 each
B = B/w sound on 200' spools @ £6.75 each
C = Colour silent on 200' spools @ £10.50 each
D = B/w sound on 400' spools @ £15.50 each
E = Colour sound on 400' spools @ £25.95 each
F = B/w sound feature version on 4 x 400' spools @ £47.50 each

Tick as applicable

TASTE THE BLOOD OF DRACULA
RETURN OF DRACULA
EMPIRE AND THE BALLERINA
VENGE OF FRANKENSTEIN
WOLF
CAT

All prices in
HoH Bargain!

VOLUM
VDS
P

F'K'NSTEIN MUST BE DESTROYED
KING KONG
MONSTER OF PIEDRAS BLANCAS
THE WASP WOMAN
THE GAMMA PEOPLE
BEAST FROM THE HAUNTED CAVE
CREATURES OF EVIL
LUST FOR BLOOD
I WAS A TEENAGE FRANKENSTEIN
I WAS A TEENAGE WEREWOLF
CREATURE WITH THE ATOM BRAIN
SEA MONSTER
THE UNDEAD
MONSTER MAKER
NIGHTMARE IN WAX

- ☐ Films from "These are Horrific" – total for this section (add 20p p&p for each film)
- ☐ K6 Silent Projector @ £21 each
- ☐ Yelco Sound Projector @ £165 each
- ☐ Film Catalogues @ 50p each

A	B	C	D	E	F
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					

LEISURE MAIL

(Dept HH), 69 Long Lane, London EC1A 9EJ



Name _____

Address

I enclose cheque/PO/cash
I wish to pay by Access/Barclay/American
Express/Diners card (delete as appropriate)
My account no. is _____

If you do not wish to damage this page you may order on plain paper.

TOTAL

KRONOS-VAMPIRE HUNTER

Part Two

BUT FOR KRONOS, THE PERSONAL HORROR IS FAR FROM OVER, FOR NEXT MORNING...



KRONOS! KRONOS! LOOK AT MY FACE YOUNGER!!

CHAINS, GROST!

THE GIRL IN THE FOREST... IT WAS MY FAULT WASN'T IT?

YES, MY FRIEND... AND YOU KNOW WHAT WE **MUST DO** THERE WILL BE PAIN...

DO IT, KRONOS. DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO...



BUT GROST STEPS IN QUICKLY TO SAVE KRONOS THE GRISLY TASK...



AAAUUGH!



BUT... HE DOESN'T BLEED, KRONOS... A VAMPIRE ONLY BLOODS AT THE MOMENT OF ITS DEATH

HANGING THEN...

BUT EVEN NOW...

FIRE, GROST... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP TRYING UNTIL WE FIND THE **RIGHT WAY**... MARCUS?



OOOOOOH...



THIS TIME... THAT'S ENOUGH, GROST. CUT HIM DOWN.



MARCUS?

BLOOD! HE'S DEAD, GROST, BUT NOW?



A CROSS? HE WAS WEARING A CROSS... A **SIMPLE STEEL CROSS**...

NO, GROST, A CROSS OF **HOLY STEEL** THAT'S OUR ANSWER... THAT'S HOW WE KILL THE VAMPIRE...

SO, THAT NIGHT...

THIS'LL DO, KRONOS!
GOOD HOLY METAL...
I CAN FASHION A FINE
SWORD FROM THIS...

BUT...

LOOK! THERE
THEY ARE! THE
ONES WHO KILLED
DR MARCUS!

AND THEY'RE
ROBBING GRAVES
NOW...

RUN, GHOST...
RUN!

AND SO KRONOS BEGINS A DESPERATE
REARGUARD ACTION...

AAAGH!

UNTIL...

SORRY, GENTLEMEN...
I'LL ENTERTAIN YOU ALL
AGAIN SOME OTHER
TIME...

AAAAH!

OUR ARMS...
HE HIT US ALL...

IN THE
SAME PLACE!

AND SO, KRONOS AND HIS
COMPANIONS WITHDRAW TO
THE SAFETY OF THE FOREST...

ALMOST
FINISHED, KRONOS!
A SWORD FIT FOR
A KING...

OR A
VAMPIRE, EH,
GHOST?



AND SO, WHEN DARKNESS FALLS...

WHAT THE DEY...

OH, SIR! PLEASE HELP ME, SIR... I SAW THE LIGHT AND...

MY FATHER TRIED TO FORCE ME INTO A MARRIAGE... I RAN AWAY... PLEASE, SIR... LET ME STAY HERE TONIGHT... I WON'T TROUBLE YOU... I'LL JUST STAY HERE BY THE FIRE.

OF COURSE... IT'S A SIMPLE KINDNESS... HERE, DRINK THIS...

WE'LL LEAVE YOU, THEN... GOODNIGHT!

AND GOODNIGHT TO YOU, SARA... SLEEP WELL... AND AWAKE RENEWED.

OUTSIDE...

WE'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH. KRONOS I DON'T THINK THEY'D ATTACK CARLA YET BUT

BUT WE CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE... COME ON, GROS... TIME WE MADE OUR MOVE

HURRY, KRONOS... THERE'S ANOTHER STORM BREWING! I DON'T LIKE IT.

NOR I, GROS... BUT WE MUST APPROACH QUIETLY...

AND INSIDE THE HOUSE, ANOTHER IS APPROACHING QUIETLY...

CARLA WAKES, LOOKS, AND CATCHES ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES. STRANGE HYPNOTIC EYES...

YOU... YOU'RE...

AND AS SHE SITS THERE ENTRANCED, LIKE SO MANY BEFORE HER...

MOTHER!

HER FACE, PAUL... LOOK AT HER FACE! WHAT'S WRONG...

YOUR FATHER... I AWAKENED HIM... I HAD TO BRING HIM BACK...

BUT AT WHAT PRICE, MOTHER? WHAT PRICE? YOUR IMMORTAL SOUL...

WRONG? WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL? LIFE HAS BEGUN ANEW, SARA... FOR ME... AND...



Once again, we're so totally bogged down with readers letters that we're turning this month's Post Mortem into an ideas index. So let's hear what you think of some of the good/bad/zany suggestions we've been receiving.

I would like to see more features on the films that you adapt to comic strip form. You could include deeper coverage of the makeup and special effects and perhaps some behind-the-scenes photographs.

G. McLaughlin,
London.

Why not run an article on Dracula along the lines of "The Decline and Fall of the Frankenstein Monster" in *MoH* 37? And why not have a Dracula Gallery with stars like Jack Palance, Francis Lederer, Charles Macaulay and Max Schreck? Not forgetting my two favourite Draculas, Christopher Lee and Bela Lugosi.

John Proud,
South Yorkshire.

I have an idea for a competition you could have in *MoH*. Readers design and apply their own monster makeup, get a friend to take a photo of them in a gruesome pose, and write a short story centred around the picture.

Also, I'd be grateful if you didn't publish any more "continued next issue" stories.

David Karakes,
Lancashire.

Each month you could do a kind of "Dictionary of Movie Monsters", including an illustration of the character in question (Frankenstein, Dracula, Mummy), a one or two page feature, a list of films in which the monster has appeared and a list of books on the subject.

John Chase,
Dorking, Surrey.

It's a pity you've changed your title from *The House of Hammer to House of Horror*. Had you stuck with the original title you could have brought out a whole series of companion magazines: *The Annex of Amicus*, *The Two Up, Two Down of Tyburn*, *The Air-Raid Shelter of A.I.P.*, the list is endless...

Graeme Basset,
Grimsby.

I don't think there should be more comic strips in the magazine. One long Hammer adaptation and one short *Van Helsing* *Terror Tale* suits me fine.

Graham Watt,
Lancashire.

Wherever possible, you could do a complete subject filmography around the film you adapt to comic strip form. For example, if you adapt Dr. Jekyll and Hyde you could do a complete Jekyll and Hyde filmography.

Philip Mason,
London.

I hope you adapt, besides the well-known films, the lesser-known Hammer movies like *X-The Unknown*, *Kiss of the Vampire* and *The Lost Continent*.

Stephen On,
London.

Peter Walker must deserve coverage as the only true British horror film director of today. He has directed films like *The House of Whipcord*, *House of Morte Sin*, *Frightmare*, *The Flesh and Blood Show* and *Schizo*, none of which have been mentioned within your pages.

Derrick Sheldon,
Hull.



Post Mortem

Please either make adaptations longer or in two parts with about ten pages each or *forget the adaptations totally*. It is really disappointing to see cramped artwork and huge chunks omitted from the storyline. Leave out a few film reviews if you have to, but make the adaptations longer.

K. Green,
Reading.

Every month you could print a pin-up of a famous monster or horror actor in the centre pages of *MoH*.

Gary Rugless,
Essex.

Here are some ideas that you might bear in mind for future issues. Have a pen-and-ink swap-shop page as a service to your readers. Run an article on how a horror film is made, telling us about the jobs of the script-writer, the makeup man, the director, etc. A feature on Japan's giant monsters would be good. Each year you could publish a Special Issue dedicated to a famous horror actor including his life story, filmography etc.

Gary Dawson,
Tyne and Wear.

Please bring back the new adventures of Captain Kronos which haven't been seen since *MoH* 1, 2 and 3.

G. Chadgoy,
Liverpool.

Perhaps you could do an article on the Italian comic books that became movies—*Dioibol* and *Kriminal*, etc. Also, maybe one of your contributors could dig up some information from the Iron Curtain countries and let us fans know what horror means to people way out there.

Dave Gibbons did the artwork for *Van Helsing's History of Horror* way back in *MoH* 7 and hasn't been seen since. A full length adaptation or even a *Terror Tale* would be appreciated as Gibbons is one hell of a fine artist.

Mykai Evangelista,
Lancashire.

I would like more articles on modern films, and special sections on horror film production companies: Hammer, Tyburn, Amicus, etc. Also, I would like to see comic strip adaptations of films other than Hammer productions.

Andrew Smith,
Hull.

The one film there isn't much talk about anywhere is the 1964 Amicus film *Dr. Terror's House of Horrors* starring Peter Cushing. How about covering this in a future issue of *MoH*? You could also do a feature on *The Legend of Heli House* and include plenty of stills of Roddy McDowell and Pamela Franklin.

Miss R. J. Clarke,
Basilston.

Please try to keep the film reviews down to a maximum of two per issue. You could use the space to give us longer *Van Helsing's Terror Tales*.

Terry Halpin,
Hartlepool.

There are many films which just do not seem to be discussed in horror magazines. Films such as *The Curse of the Crimson Altar*, the excellent *Blood on Satan's Claw*, and the little seen Karloff film, *Caution! Blood*.

Instead of printing a poster on the back cover I'd rather see a colour still from the film featured in the comic strip in that issue.

Jeffrey Leach,
Bolton.

I think you should have a page for readers to write their own short stories of the macabre.

Adrian Cox,
Maidstone.

In place of *Van Helsing's Terror Tales* why not a short horror story. A *Terror Tale* takes up three or more pages but only takes about five minutes to read. A short story should last a bit longer.

Stevan Dowd,
Oldham.

I don't enjoy *Father Shandor* a bit—too much like those awful Marvel characters although the artwork is far better. Please don't print any more of his dreadful adventures.

Ricky Thaxter,
Norfolk.

The fantastic strips of *Van Helsing's Terror Tales* and *Father Shandor* are not long enough. They are an excellent part of the magazine and should be given more space. Also, what has happened to *Kronos*? This was a superb strip and I long to see it return soon.

K. G. Wieland,
Hertfordshire.

It would be good if you could print a feature on how your comic strip adaptations are produced. You could follow the strip's progress from writer to artist to letterer. Maybe you could print some uninked artwork.

D. Cornia,
Wiltshire.

Take *Van Helsing's Terror Tales* out of *MoH* and have the series its own magazine. This would allow room for more plot and character development. Use *Kronos* as a back-up feature and round out the magazine with two or three film reviews.

Robert Bannar,
Weaverhampton.

I have a suggestion to make: it is evident from your *Mad as Macabre* listings that there are far too many films to do full reviews on. So why not do the usual number of 2-page film reviews of the major releases plus a couple or so pages of short concise reviews using smaller print? These could have a column each and be similar to your *Fantasy Film Festival* reviews in *MoH* 13 and 14 having a small credit box at the bottom of the column.

Nicholas Heyson,
Reading.

... and there you have it: A healthy batch of conflicting criticisms that leave us totally confused. Should the strips be longer/shorter, should the reviews be more or fewer. Who knows? Without your feedback, we certainly don't, so put pen to paper and we'll look forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

Send all letters of comment and criticism to: *POST Mortem*, Top Sellers Ltd., Columbia-Warner House, 135-141, Wodour Street, London W.1, England.

HISTORY OF HAMMER

Part Three. The Mummy and the Return of Frankenstein 1958-1959.

By Bob Sheridan

By 1958, Hammer Films were already established as the modern masters of the Gothic horror film, due to their fantastically popular approaches to the classic terror tales, "Frankenstein" and "Dracula". In addition to these, Hammer had been achieving success with war and science-fiction films, and in 1958 they experimented with two further types of subjects.

The Snorkel was the forerunner of a series of Hammer thrillers, which would reach its height of popularity in the mid-1960s with films such as *Taste of Fear* and *The Nanny*. Directed by Guy Green from a Peter Myers-Jimmy Sangster screenplay, **The Snorkel** starred Peter Van Eyck in the role of Jacques Duval, a man who murders his wife and makes her death appear to have been suicide. The plot thickens when Duval's stepdaughter (Mandy Miller) begins to suspect the truth about her mother's death—as well as the death of her real father, some time before. Duval learns of her suspicions and plans to do away with her. Suspense mounts until the film comes to an eerie "poetic justice" conclusion in which Duval's scheme backfires on him... fatally.

Further up the Creek was a comedy (Hammer's first in over three years) written and directed by Val Guest. A sequel to the non-Hammer *Up the Creek* (which had been shot in Hammerscope and distributed by Exclusive Pictures, of which Hammer was an outgrowth), **Further** was pretty much more of the same—a lightweight peacetime naval farce designed for domestic bookings. Its chief interest is that it demonstrates that Hammer continued to turn out a variety of product after **The Curse of Frankenstein** and **Dracula**, although their main attention was directed toward films of a similar nature to these, their two greatest successes.

And so Hammer rounded out their 1958 releases with **The Revenge of Frankenstein**, in technicolor. Christopher Lee, who had played both the creature in **The Curse of Frankenstein** and the title role in **Dracula**, refused to repeat either characterisation, causing Hammer to cancel both **The Revenge of Dracula** and **And Then... Frankenstein Made Woman** (a play on the title of Roger Vadim's Brigitte Bardot vehicle *And God Created Woman*). Lee quite understandably was trying to avoid the kind of typecasting that had reduced Bela Lugosi to a foil for the East Side Kids, but Hammer were not about to let Lee's decision hinder their success. Peter Cushing agreed to repeat his role as Baron Victor Frankenstein under

the direction of Terence Fisher. Jimmy Sangster devised a script which truly set the style for Hammer's Frankenstein series. Rather than following the adventures of the creature (as the original Universal series had done), Sangster's plot concerned the continuing career of Baron Frankenstein himself.

The Revenge of Frankenstein had an advantage over **Curse** in that this time Sangster was able to script for a director and star who had already been through the basic premise with him. Where **Curse** had been an occasionally awkward blend of styles, **Revenge** was obviously the work of a team whose members knew how to complement one another's approaches toward the material. This resulted in a



much sharper overall vision than before, so that *Revenge* is a better film than *Curse*, at least in terms of its creation of a powerful central character.

The Revenge of Frankenstein opens with the apparent guillotining of Baron Frankenstein, as implied in the finale of *The Curse*



of *Frankenstein*. The scene shifts quickly to a pair of graverobbers humorously portrayed by Lionel Jeffries and Michael Ripper in a style made famous by Abbott and Costello (the shrewd Jeffries fast-talks the dimwitted Ripper into doing the hard work for him, digging up the body of a freshly buried baron). This unpleasant team soon discovers that their routine job leads them to a horrific discovery when the body which they dig up turns out to be not the expected nobleman, but a beheaded priest. Through this gruesomely comical sequence, the audience is informed that the guillotine at the film's opening decapitated the unsuspecting priest (who was performing the last rites on the condemned man) instead of the crafty Baron

Frankenstein, who is very much alive.

The film then jumps three years, to the town of Carlsbruck, where a certain "Doctor Stein" has stolen most of the patients away from the members of the local council of medicine. In addition to tending the needs of the rich, Stein runs a free clinic for the poor. As council member Paul Kleve (Francis Matthews) suspects, Stein is Frankenstein. Kleve blackmails Stein into taking him on as his assistant and pupil, and then quickly learns that Stein intends to bring another creature to life. Stein proudly shows Kleve the body (Michael Gwynne) he has constructed. Unlike the creature of *The Curse of Frankenstein*, this one is no misshapen monster, but a tall, powerful looking figure of a man. Another change is that this time Stein has a volunteer to supply the brain for his creature, in the person of a hunchbacked, partially paralyzed dwarf

by dissecting it. In the meantime, the patients in the free clinic have discovered that Frankenstein has been using their limbs and organs for his experiments. At the first opportunity, they beat Frankenstein nearly to death.

The film ends with an unusual twist. Using the knowledge he has gained, Kleve transplants Frankenstein's brain into a "spare" body constructed by Frankenstein in his own image. And so, looking the same as before except for a moustache and a tattooed arm (taken from a pickpocket in the clinic), Frankenstein sets up practice in London under the name Dr. Franck.

The Revenge of Frankenstein was a departure from all previous Frankenstein films in a number of ways. The creature played by Michael Gwynne is the most sympathetic character in the film. Even his death is unique; rather than spectacular fire, explosion, or disintegration, this creature



Above: Hammer's 1959 remake of the 1932 Universal film *The Mummy* had Christopher Lee as Kharis retreading the footsteps of Boris Karloff and mistaking a modern woman, Isobel (Yvonne Furneaux) for his long-dead love, Ananka. Above left: In a fit of rage, Sir Hugo Baskerville (David Oxley) roasts the head of one of his servants in the fireplace and then pursues the man's daughter (below left) with murderous intent. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1959).

named Karl (Oscar Quitak). It was Karl who saved Frankenstein from the guillotine and beheaded the priest in Frankenstein's place. Karl's reward is to be a new body, courtesy of the rescued Baron.

Although the brain transplant is a success, the creature (now called Karl) undergoes a series of emotional and physical shocks (he learns that Stein plans to exhibit him, along with his old body, and is beaten by a savage drunkard played by George Woodbridge). As a result, Karl finds that his paralysis is returning, and that he is showing a disturbing tendency toward cannibalism! Despite Stein's efforts, Karl becomes a murderer and eventually identifies Stein as Frankenstein in public. The Baron puts an end to his new creature

dies by dissection—and offscreen, besides. Frankenstein himself has changed; he has cut off all of his emotional connections with the rest of the world. In *The Curse of Frankenstein*, he had a fiancée and was carrying on with a maid as well. But now he shows no signs of either love or passion, but only an expertly managed ability to function on any level of society as a superior, rather than an equal.

Frankenstein's personality is framed by those of the characters around him, who are generally petty or selfish. In addition to Karl (in either of his bodies), there are three exceptions to this rule. On one hand, there is the patient played by Richard Wordsworth—a totally undefined personality who seems to embody the



Above: Sir Henry Baskerville (Christopher Lee) comes face to face with *The Hound*. Below: Andre Morell (right) avoided bumbling, dim-witted approach to Dr. Watson typified by Nigel Bruce in the Sherlock Holmes series of the 1930s instead portraying Watson as a capable, competent character. Below right: As a reward for saving Frankenstein's life, the Baron transplants the brain of the paralysed and hunchbacked Karl into a new body. Unfortunately, as time passes the paralysis returns making Karl's new body almost as twisted as the original. *The Revenge of Frankenstein* (1958).



spirit of anarchy. The reasons for his actions can only be explained as a fondness for making trouble for its own sake. At the opposite extreme is Margaret Conrad (Eunice Gayson), a minister's daughter who tends to the "needs" of the patients in the free clinic, supplying them with soap, writing paper, and tobacco—needless to say, only the last is in demand. Margaret is kind, generous, self-sacrificing—and a bit unrealistic. Also, with all her good intentions, she is largely responsible for the failure of Frankenstein's current experiment.

Lastly we come to Hans Kleve, who functions as the film's standard of normalcy. He sees both the good and the bad in Frankenstein. He admires the Baron's daring and skill, but is horrified at his methods. Unlike the Baron, Hans is idealistic, with a tendency toward humanitarianism (he is seen tending a young girl in the free clinic—no potential limb donor, she). Like Frankenstein in *Curse*, though, he expects others to share his enthusiasm for the Baron's work. It is Hans who cheerfully informs Karl, still recovering from the operation which has given him a new body, that he is to become an object of scientific study ("All my life I've been stared at," responds Karl to the unheeding Hans).

Finally Hans sides completely with Frankenstein, first against the medical council and then by performing the operation that saves the Baron's life. As a disciple or agent of Frankenstein, Hans



enables the Baron to achieve the ultimate in his dreams of creating life; at the end of *The Revenge of Frankenstein*, the Baron has become his own creature. This conclusion is so bizarre that Hammer has never attempted to follow it. Although in the film *Frankenstein* declares, "They will never be rid of me", and Hammer made a number of further *Frankenstein* films, only the first two films, *Curse* and *Revenge*, present any sort of consistent continuing saga.

1959 began for Hammer with the release of *I Only Arsked*, adapted by Sid Colin and Jack Davies from the Granada TV series *The Army Game*. Directed by Montgomery Tully, *I Only Arsked* was another Hammer comedy aimed almost solely at the domestic film market—where it was, as usual for Hammer, a success.

Hammer's next two films, *The Hound of The Baskervilles* and *Ten Seconds to Hell*, were given worldwide release by United Artists. *Hound* reunited Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee under the direction of Terence Fisher. This time the script, based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous novel, was written by Peter Bryan, who remained more faithful to the original than Jimmy Sangster had done in his Hammer adaptations. For that matter, the *Hammer Hound Of The Baskervilles* is closer to Doyle than the 1939 American film version was, despite a couple of Hammer "twists".

The film begins at Baskerville Hall, a set which marks the most impressive use of Bray Studios outside of its disguise as



Above: The little-seen original production design for the Hound of the Baskervilles. The Hound finally appeared in the film looking more like a great dane than a wolf. Below: *Yesterday's Enemy* (1959) attempted to follow *The Camp on Blood Island* by showing that the British could be just as ruthless as the Japanese.



Castle Dracula in Hammer's 1958 *Dracula*. At this point the work of the late Bernard Robinson should be acknowledged. As Hammer's chief production designer until the late 1960s, Robinson was responsible for the expensive "look" which many of Hammer's low budget films achieved. In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Robinson's Baskerville Hall, photographed in rich technicolor, serves in the opening scenes as a perfect backdrop for the evil of Sir Hugo Baskerville, as well as a visual expression of the nobleman's decadence. It is through these aspects of his personality that Sir Hugo brings about his own death. After pursuing an escaped servant girl (whose father's head he has just roasted in the fireplace) onto the moors outside Baskerville Hall, Sir Hugo stabs her to death, and is in turn killed by a huge dog... so goes the legend of the Hound of Hell.

At this point the film switches to the home of Sherlock Holmes (Peter Cushing). Holmes and Dr. Watson (Andre Morell) have been listening to the legend, as told by Dr. Mortimer (Francis De Wolff), the Baskerville family physician. Since the recent mysterious death of Sir Charles Baskerville, only Sir Henry (Christopher

Lee) remains heir to the Baskerville grounds, title, and fortune. Mortimer believes that Sir Charles' death is connected with the legend of the hound, and fears for Sir Henry's life.

Naturally, Holmes accepts the case and is soon working his expert way through a tangled web of clues, suspects, and strange occurrences. Rather than discuss the plot of this mystery (since the reader is probably already familiar with it), we shall turn our attentions to Hammer's handling of the world's most famous detective.

Terence Fisher described Peter Cushing's performance as "second to none", and it is difficult to dispute the director's appraisal, except on the grounds of nostalgia. Obviously, it is Basil Rathbone's name which springs to mind when one mentions Sherlock Holmes in the movies, and Rathbone gave consistently top level performances throughout an entire series of Holmes films in the 1930s and 40s. And, while no one has ever topped Rathbone's characterisation, Cushing's performance cannot honestly be called inferior. As always, Cushing gave his all, not surprisingly injecting bits of Van Helsing and Frankenstein into his portrayal. Like Van Helsing, Holmes is a totally dedicated enemy of evil, arming himself with all the information available to him. Like Frankenstein, he is impatient with anyone or anything that stands in the way of his goal, and is expert at manipulating the people with whom he comes in contact. Like both, he is unusually intelligent and concerned with knowledge—and refuses to even consider giving up (in *Hound*, he declares, "I never relinquish a case").

It has been argued that Andre Morell's Watson is a less effective foil for Cushing's Holmes than the one which Nigel Bruce created opposite Rathbone. While the Hammer version sacrifices some of the charm of the byplay between Holmes and his dimwitted comrade, it should be remembered that this characterisation was Bruce's, and not drawn from Doyle's original stories. Terence Fisher described it another way: "A man of Holmes' intelligence would never have suffered such a clot around him." Morell's Watson, while nowhere near Holmes' genius, is an intelligent professional. And since Holmes is still his intellectual superior, Watson is still a perfect foil for lines such as "Watson, you inspire me!" (when he unintentionally reminds Holmes of a fact which the detective had overlooked) and the obligatory "elementary, my dear Watson".

One further contrast regarding Holmes himself is that Hammer chose to ignore Holmes' abilities as a master of disguise, a skill employed throughout the Rathbone series. On the other hand, Cushing's Holmes is closer to Doyle's original character in his physical involvement. He is as much a man of action as of thought, a fact never brought to light in the Rathbone films.

Christopher Lee, following his roles as Frankenstein's creature and Count Dracula, had more screen time than before in *Hound*. As Sir Henry Baskerville, he had what could have been a standard "good guy" role, but instead played the part as a rather stuffy and uncooperative member of the upper class, with little patience for Holmes' investigation. While possibly sacrificing audience sympathy, Lee gave Sir Henry an unexpected depth.

Ten Seconds to Hell was an unusual but appropriate film for Hammer, in that it was written and directed by American Robert Aldrich. Both Hammer and Aldrich had reputations for approaching familiar material in an unexpected way (in Aldrich's case, this is best demonstrated in his 1954 film of Mickey Spillane's *Kiss Me Deadly*). The film is about a group of war buddies who find that they cannot fit into a peacetime workaday world; and so together they form a squad to disarm unexploded bombs in former war zones. Realising the deadly nature of their job, they form a salary pool, to be divided among the survivors of their task. This grim premise was made unusual by the casting of the lead roles: Jack Palance, most famous as the murderous gunslinger in *Shane*, was the hero, and Jeff Chandler, a popular action hero of the 1950s, was the villain!

The Ugly Duckling followed, an unusual

comedy version of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* directed by Lance Comfort from a Sid Colin-Jack Davies script based on a story by Colin. Bernard Bresslaw, who had appeared in *I Only Asked*, played Henry Jekyll, a descendant of the "original" Jekyll, who discovers his ancestor's formula and uses it to turn himself into Teddy Hyde, man about town and crook. Rather than emphasising the horror elements of the story, Hammer produced it in the style of their other comedy releases of the period.

Hammer's next feature was *Yesterday's Enemy*, scripted by Peter R. Newman from his television play. Val Guest, who had directed *The Camp on Blood Island*, directed *Enemy* as an alternative version of *Camp*, by showing that the British in World War II could be as ruthless as the Japanese were. *Yesterday's Enemy* was a thought-provoking, intelligent film which corrected every "flaw" that critics had found in *The Camp on Blood Island*—and didn't make anywhere near as much money.

Somewhat Hammer managed to follow *Yesterday's Enemy* with yet another technicolor Terence Fisher-Peter Cushing-Christopher Lee horror remake, *The Mummy*. By this time, Hammer had proven their abilities with horror subjects to the extent that Universal Pictures had granted them remake rights on all of their



Christopher Lee's mummified Kharis shambled his way through the film wreaking vengeance upon the defilers of his tomb.



In the gripping climax of *The Mummy*, Kharis (Christopher Lee) abducts Isobel Banning (Yvonne Furneaux) and is finally destroyed when, pursued by John Banning (Peter Cushing), he stumbles into a pool of quicksand and sinks from view.

horror properties, and so scripter Jimmy Sangster had a free hand in reworking their mummy saga. While the film's screenplay is credited as being based upon that of Universal's 1932 film of the same title, it takes elements not only from that film, but from every Universal Mummy movie through *The Mummy's Curse* (1946).

Christopher Lee returned to a "monster" characterisation in the title role of *The Mummy*. This may seem odd at first, considering that this part called for thoroughly disguising makeup. However, Lee was playing a man, Kharis, who was mummified, and a long flashback in the middle of the film featured Lee as Kharis the man, high priest of Karnak, a part which enabled Lee to give a dignified and distinctive performance.

This time around, Hammer gave Peter Cushing the "change-of-pace" role, as archeologist John Banning. In a switch on the last three Mummy films of the 1940s, it is not the Mummy who limps on a bad leg; instead, Banning has a bad leg, as a result of the expedition in which he and his father unearched the mummy's tomb. In addition to this physical defect, Cushing's character, though knowledgeable, is totally unprepared for the supernatural menace which confronts him. So, in *The Mummy*, Cushing plays a character who fits more in the mould of a normal hero than Van Helsing or Holmes. Banning is even happily married—to a woman named Isobel (Yvonne Furneaux), who looks exactly like the Princess Ananka, for whom Kharis suffered the tearing out of his tongue as well as mummification. This allowed a few moments of charming domestic banter; when Banning and his wife notice resemblance between Ananka's portrait and Isobel, Banning comments, "She was described as the most beautiful woman in the world", which pleases Isobel until he qualifies his statement with, "Of course, the world was much smaller then".

Sangster's script included touches such as a reference to Edgar Allan Poe as a contemporary author to create a recent period atmosphere, but *The Mummy* is memorable chiefly because of Terence Fisher's visuals. The main setpiece of the film is the flashback to ancient Egypt, complete with ornamental parades, slaves, and vestal virgins lined up for ritual slaughter. This section of the film is probably the most "spectacular" footage Hammer had released at this point in their career.

As magnificent as the Egyptian sequence was, it was the handling of the scenes of mayhem involving the mummy which provided the film with its finest moments.

Hammer fans were given what they paid for when Lee's Mummy attacked Cushing's Banning in his home, with Cushing rolling backwards over tables to avoid the monster's grasp, and putting spears and shotgun bullets through the revived corpse in a vain attempt to halt the monster's approach. It is Isobel's resemblance to Ananka which stops the mummy's rampage of destruction, as well as giving Christopher Lee his best opportunity to employ his evocative eyes in order to convey emotion.

Like Christopher Lee in *The Mummy*, Hammer's progress was unstoppable, and, as we shall see next issue, that progress continued at full tilt into the 1960s.

Hammer Film Products Ltd. 1958-1959

Key to abbreviations used in this filmography

Pd: Year in which film was made.
Rel: Year in which film was released.
Dir: Film directed by.
Sc: Screenplay written by.
Ph: Film photographed by.
Art Dir: Art direction by.
Ed: Edited by.
Mus: Music composed by.
Exec Prod: Executive producer.
Assoc Prod: Associate producer.
Prod: Producer.
Dis: Distributed by.

The Snorkel (Pd: 1957, Rel: 1958)

Peter Van Eyck (as Jacques Duval), Bette St John (Jean), Val Guest, Sc: Val Guest, John Warren and Len Heath, Ph: Gerry Gilbey, Art Dir: George Provis, Ed: William Leitch, Dis: Columbia, Time: 90 mins.
Ingenuous murder drama in which a man kills his wife and makes it appear to be suicide.

Further up the Creek (Pd: 1958, Rel: 1958)

David Tomlinson (as Lt. Fairweather), Frankie Howard (Bosun), Shirley Eaton (Jane), Thora Hird (Miss Galloway), Eric Robinson (President), Lionel Jeffries (Barker).
Dir: Terence Fisher, Sc: Jimmy Sangster, Ph: Jack Asher, Prod: Bernard Robinson, Ed: James Needs and Alfred Cox, Mus: Leonard Salzedo, Assoc Prod: Anthony Nelson-Keyes, Exec Prod: Michael Carreras, Dis: Columbia, Time: 91 mins.
This film was the sequel to the comedy *Up the Creek* which, though made in Hammercolor and released by Exclusive, is on record as a Byron production.

The Revenge of Frankenstein (Pd: 1958, Rel: 1958)

Peter Cushing (as Dr. Victor Stein), Francis Matthews (Dr. Hans Krue), Eunice Gayson (Margaret), Michael Gwynn (Karl), John Wadley (Burgman), Lionel Jeffries (Fritz), Dir: Terence Fisher, Sc: Jimmy Sangster, Ph: Jack Asher, Prod: Bernard Robinson, Ed: James Needs and Alfred Cox, Mus: Leonard Salzedo, Assoc Prod: Anthony Nelson-Keyes, Exec Prod: Michael Carreras, Dis: Columbia, Time: 89 mins.
Having escaped the gallows in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Dr. Stein and continues in his grisly work. This time his creature is a cannibal.

I Only Arrive (Pd: 1958, Rel: 1959)

Bernard Sleslaw (as Popeye), Michael Medwin (Corporal Springer), Alfie Bass (Escorted Boots), Geoffrey Sumpter (Major Upshot-Bagley), Charles Hawtrey (The Professor), Norman Rossington (Cupcake), David Lodge (Sgt. "Polly" Chambers).
Dir: Montygomery Tully, Sc: Sid Collin and Jack Davies from the Granada TV series, "The Army Game", Ph: Lionel Bann, Art Dir: Michael Stille, Ed: James Needs and Alfred Cox, Mus: Benjamin Frankel, Assoc Prod: Anthony Nelson-Keyes, Exec Prod: Michael Carreras, Dis: Anthony Hinds, Dis: Columbia, Time: 82 mins.

The Hound of the Baskervilles (Pd: 1958, Rel: 1958)

Peter Cushing (as Sherlock Holmes), André Morell (Dr. Watson), Christopher Lee (Sir Henry), Maria Lenti (Cecilia), Ewan Solon (Stefan), Francis de Wolfe (Dr. Mortimer), Miles Mallett (Bishop Frankland), John Le Mesurier (Barrow), David O'Leary (Sir Hugo Baskerville).
Dir: Terence Fisher, Sc: Peter Brown from the story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Ph: Jack Asher, Art Dir: Bernard Robinson, Ed: James Needs, Mus: James Bernard, Exec Prod: Michael Carreras, Assoc Prod: Anthony Nelson-Keyes, Prod: Anthony Hinds, Dis: United Artists, Time: 87 mins.
This remake remained more faithful to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's story than did the original 20th Century-Fox film of 1939.

Ten Seconds to Hell (Pd: 1959, Rel: 1959)

Jack Palance (Capt. Langford), Jeff Chandler (Karl Wirtz), Marina Carol (Margaret Kell), Robert Cornthwaite (Loeffler), Dave Willock (Tillip), Wes Addy (Sula).
Dir: Robert Aldrich, Sc: Robert Aldrich and Teddi Sherman, Ph: Robert Aldrich, Art Dir: Ken Adam, Ed: James Needs and Henry Richardson, Mus: Kenneth V. Jones, Prod: Michael Carreras, Dis: United Artists, Time: 94 mins.
A bomb disposal squad pool their money with the idea that the survivor will receive the total. Strangely enough, instead of Palance playing the villain, he played the hero while Jeff Chandler was the bad guy.

The Ugly Duckling (Pd: 1959, Rel: 1958)

Barbara Biskup (as Henry Jekyll/Tade Hyde), Reginald Baskwith (Reginald), Jan Partow (Victor Jekyll), Maudie Harris (Margaret).
Dir: Lance Comfort, Sc: Sid Collin and Jack Davies, Ph: Michael Reed, Art Dir: Bernard Robinson, Ed: James Needs and John Dunlop, Mus: Douglas Gamley, Assoc Prod: Tommy Lyndon-Haynes, Exec Prod: Michael Carreras, Dis: Columbia, Time: 84 mins.
Dim-witted descendant of the original Dr. Jekyll rediscovers the secret formula and uses it to transform himself into the suave Tade Hyde.

Yesterday's Enemy (Pd: 1959, Rel: 1959)

Sister Bask (Capt. Langford), Guy Rolfe (Padra), Leo McKern (Baker), George Jackson (Sgt. MacKenzie), David O'Leary (Doctor), Richard Pasco (2nd Lt. Hastings), Nigel Winters (Brigadier), Philip Ann (Yamazaki), Bryan Forbes (Desmond).
Dir: Val Guest, Sc: Peter R. Newman, Ph: Arthur Grent, Art Dir: Bernard Robinson and Don Mingrove, Ed: James Needs and Alfred Cox, Exec Prod: Michael Carreras, Dis: Columbia, Time: 95 mins.

The Mummy (Pd: 1958, Rel: 1958)

Peter Cushing (John Banning), Christopher Lee (Kharis/The Mummy), Yvonne Furneaux (Isobel-Ananka), Felix Aylmer (Stephen Barrow), Eddie Byrne (McGroony), Raymond Huntley (Joseph Whemple), George Pastell (Mahemet).
Dir: Terence Fisher, Sc: Jimmy Sangster, Ph: Jack Asher, Art Dir: Bernard Robinson, Ed: James Needs and Alfred Cox, Mus: Frank Reizenstein, Assoc Prod: Anthony Nelson-Keyes, Prod: Michael Carreras, Dis: Universal, Time: 90 mins.
A remake of Universal's classic Boris Karloff film, *The Mummy*, 1932.

THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN

Lawrence Garson of Los Angeles, California, would like a listing of films using the *Abominable Snowman* theme, so here they are:

The Snow Creature (1954). Wilder/United Artists. *Dir:* W. Lee Wilder (also produced). *Screenplay:* Myles Wilder. *Leading Players:* Paul Langton, Leslie Denison, Teru Shimada.

Man Beast (1955). Jerry Warren/Favourite films. *Dir:* Jerry Warren (also produced). *Scr:* Arthur Cassidy. *LP:* Rock Madison, Virginia Maynor, George Skaff.

Half Human (aka *Jujin Yukiotoke/Monster Snowman*, 1955). Japanese. Toho/DCA. *Dir:* Inoshiro Honda. *Scr:* Takeo Murata. *LP:* Akira Takarada, Kenji Kasahara, (US-made sequences only:) John Carradine, Morris Ankrum. Features "apeman" creature.

The Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas (1957). Hammer Film Prods., Clarion Films/Regal. *Dir:* Val Guest. *Scr:* Nigel Kneale. *LP:* Forrest Tucker, Peter Cushing, Maureen Connolly. Based on the BBC-TV play "The Creature" by Nigel Kneale.

Snow Devils (aka *I Diavoli dello Spazio/The Devils from Space*, 1965). Italian. Mercury/MGM. Colour. *Dir:* A. Margheriti (Anthony Dawson). *Scr:* Charles Sinclair, William Finger, I. Reiner, Moretti. *LP:* Giacomo Rossi-Stuart (Jack Stuart), Ombretta Colli (Amber Collins), Renato Baldini (Gene Baldwin).

Big Foot (1969). Ellman Enterprises/Universal Entertainment. Colour. *Dir:* Robert F. Slatzer. *Scr:* Slatzer & James Gordon White. *LP:* Chris Mitchum, John Carradine, Lindsay Crosby. Features "apeman" creatures.

The Legend of Boggy Creek (1972). P & L Prods. Colour. *Dir:* Charles B. Pierce (also produced & photographed). *Scr:* Earl E. Smith (also associate producer). *LP:* Willie E. Smith, John P. Hixon, John W. Oates, Jeff Crabtree. Features "apeman" creature.

DR. FU MANCHU

For *Fu Manchu* fans Larry and Edward Gostelow of Bristol, the checklist of films featuring Sax Rohmer's Oriental villain:

The Mystery of Dr. Fu Manchu (1923). Stoll. Silent—Serial in 15 chapters. *Dir:* A. E. Coleby. *Screenplay:* A. E. Coleby & Frank Wilson. *Lead Players:* Harry Agar Lyons (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Fred Paul, H. Humberston Wright, Joan Carlsson.

Further Mysteries of Dr. Fu Manchu (1924). Stoll. Silent—Serial in 15 chapters. *Dir:* Fred Paul. *Scr:* Fred Paul (adaptation). *LP:* Harry Agar Lyons (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Fred Paul, H. Humberston Wright, Dorine Shirley.

The Mysterious Dr. Fu Manchu (1929). Paramount. Silent & Sound versions. *Dir:* Rowland V. Lee. *Scr:* Florence Ryerson & Lloyd Corrigan. *LP:* Warner Oland (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Jean Arthur, Neil Hamilton, O.P. Heggie.

The Return of Dr. Fu Manchu (1930). Paramount. *Dir:* Rowland V. Lee. *Scr:* Florence Ryerson & Lloyd Corrigan. *LP:* Warner Oland (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), O.P. Heggie, Neil Hamilton, Jean Arthur.

Daughter of the Dragon (1931). Paramount. *Dir:* Lloyd Corrigan. *Scr:* Corrigan, Monte M. Katterjohn, Sidney Buchman. *LP:* Warner Oland (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Anna May Wong, Sessue Hayakawa. Based on the novel "Daughter of Fu Manchu" by Sax Rohmer.

The Mask of Fu Manchu (1932). Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. *Dir:* Charles Brabin & Charles Vidor. *Scr:* Irene Kuhn, Edgar Allan Woolf, John Willard. *LP:* Boris Karloff (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Lewis Stone, Karen Morley, Jean Hersholt,

Answer

Myrna Loy. Based on the novel by Sax Rohmer.

Drums of Fu Manchu (1940). Republic. Serial, in 15 chapters. *Dir:* William Witney & John English. *Scr:* Franklin Adreon, Morgan B. Cox, Ronald Davidson, Norman S. Hall, Barney A. Sarecky, Sol Shor. *LP:* Henry Brandon (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), William Royle, Robert Kellard, Gloria Franklin.

El Otro Fu-Manchu (The Other Fu Manchu), 1945). Spanish. Bascon Films. *Dir:* & *Scr:* Ramon Barriero. *LP:* Manuel Requena (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Rosita Yarla, Adela Esteban.

The Face of Fu Manchu (1965). Hallam/Seven Arts. Colour. *Dir:* Don Sharp. *Scr:* Harry Alan Towers (Peter Welbeck). *LP:* Christopher Lee (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Nigel Greene, Joachim Fuchsberger, Karin Dor, Tsai Chin.



The Brides of Fu Manchu (1966). Hallam/Seven Arts. Colour. *Dir:* Don Sharp. *Scr:* Sharp & Harry Alan Towers (Peter Welbeck). *LP:* Christopher Lee (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Douglas Wilmer, Marie Versini, Heinz Drache, Howard Marion Crawford, Tsai Chin.

The Vengeance of Fu Manchu (1967). Babasdave/WB-Seven Arts. *Dir:* Jeremy Summers. *Scr:* Harry Alan Towers (Peter Welbeck). *LP:* Christopher Lee (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Tony Ferrer, Tsai Chin, Douglas Wilmer, Howard Marion Crawford.



Desk

Blood of Fu Manchu (aka *Kiss and Kill*, 1968). Spanish/German/U.S./British. Ada Films/Terra Filmkunst/USTadec. Colour. Scope. *Dir.* Jesus Franco. *Scr.* Harry Alan Towers (Peter Welbeck), Manfred Kohler, Franco. *LP:* Christopher Lee (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Goetz George, Ricardo Palacios, Richard Greene, Tsai Chin, Howard Marion Crawford.

The Castle of Fu Manchu (aka *Die Folterkammer des Dr. Fu Man Chu/The Torture Chamber of Dr. Fu Manchu and Assignment: Istanbul*, 1968). W. German/Spanish/Italian/British. Terra Filmkunst/Producciones Balcazar/Italian International/Towers of London. Colour. Scope. *Dir.* Jesus Franco. *Scr.* Manfred Barthel, Jesus Balcazar, Harry Alan Towers (Peter Welbeck). *LP:* Christopher Lee (*Dr. Fu Manchu*), Richard Greene, Howard Marion Crawford, Gunther Stoll, Rosalba Neri, Tsai Chin.

The *Fu Manchu*-movie list was also for **David Gurney** (Newport), Mon., Philip Hammond & Ian Thompson (Liverpool), Diana Newberry, Carol Bryant & Peter Crowther (Wembley, Middx.), and Harald Rheinemann (Cologne, Germany).

MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION

Anthony Margolin & Alan West of Melbourne, Australia, would like to see an episode listing of their old TV favourite *Mystery and Imagination*. This 1966 British TV series was the work of producer Jonathan Alwyn and story editor Terence Feely. It was an ABC Weekend Network production, and was hosted by David Buck (as "Richard Beckett") who also appeared in some of the episodes.

"The Lost Stradivarius" (January 29, 1966) *Dir.* Bill Bain. Story by J. Meade Falkner, adapted by Owen Holder. 60 mins. B&W. *LP:* Jeremy Brett, David Brett, David Buck, Joyce Heron, Angela Morant, Patricia Garwood, Edward Brayshaw.

"The Body Snatcher" (February 5, 1966) *Dir.* Toby Robertson. Story by Robert Louis Stevenson, adapted by Robert Muller. *LP:* Trevor Baxter, Michael Johnson, James Cossins, Ian Holm, Ann Ogden, Dermot Tychoy, Michael Gwynn.

"The Fall of the House of Usher" (February 12, 1966) *Dir.* Kim Mills. Story by Edgar Allan Poe, freely adapted by David Campton. *LP:* David Buck, Susannah York, Mary Miller, Denholm Elliott, Oliver McGreery, Dudley Jones.

"The Open Door" (February 19, 1966) *Dir.* Joan Kemp-Welch. Story by Mrs. Oliphant, adapted by George E. Kerr. *LP:* Jack Hawkins, Rachel Gurney, Jill Meredith, Henry Beltran, Geoffrey Sumner, Debbie Bowen.

"The Tractate Middoth" (February 26, 1966) *Dir.* Kim Mills. Story by M. R. James, adapted by Dennis Webb. *LP:* David Buck, Norman Scafe, Jerry Verno, Tim Preece, Giles Block, Edwin Finn, Helen Ford, Cyril Renison.

"Lost Hearts" (March 5, 1966) *Dir.* Robert Tronson. Story by M. R. James, adapted by Giles Cooper. *LP:* Richard Pearson, Freddie Jones, Megs Jenkins, David Dodimead, Francis Thompson, Roy Young, Darryl Read.

"The Canterville Ghost" (March 12, 1966) *Dir.* Kim Mills. Story by Oscar Wilde, adapted by Giles Cooper. *LP:* Bruce Forsyth, Doris Rogers, John Falconer, David Stoll,

David Bauer, Libby Morris, Angela Thorne, Colin Pilditch. **"Room Thirteen"** (October 22, 1966) *Dir.* Patrick Dromgoole. Story by M. R. James, adapted by Evelyn Frazer. *LP:* David Buck, David Battley, George Woodbridge, Tessa Wyatt, Carl Bernard, Joss Ackland.

"The Beckoning Shadow" (October 29, 1966) *Dir.* Laurence Bourne. From the story *Old Mrs. Jones* by Mrs. J. H. Riddell, adapted by Allan Prior. *LP:* David Buck, Toni Palmer, Edwin Richfield, Maureen Pryor, John Ronane, Larry Noble, Julia McCarthy, Renny Lister, Geoffrey Palmer.

"The Flying Dragon" (November 5, 1966) *Dir.* Bill Bain. Story by J. Sheridan Le Fanu, adapted by John Bowen. *LP:* David Buck, Ann Bell, John Bryans, John Phillips, Derek Smith, John Moffatt, Aubrey Morris.

"Carmilla" (November 12, 1966) *Dir.* Bill Bain. Story by J. Sheridan Le Fanu, adapted by Stanley Miller. *LP:* Natasha Payne, Joseph O'Connor, Roy Marsden, Laurel Mather, Sonia Dresdel, Terence Bayler.

"The Phantom Lover" (November 19, 1966) *Dir.* Robert Tronson. Story by Vernon Lee, adapted by George E. Kerr. *LP:* David Buck, Robert Hardy, Virginia McKenna, Richard Arthure, Anthony Lindford, John Sharp.

'SHE' MOVIES

Our final list this issue is for the followers of *Ayesha*, John Lane of London SE22, David Gough of Cardiff, S. Wales, Colin Williams & Mike Bishop of London W10, and Dave Shaw of Glasgow, Scotland, who want to see a checklist of films based on Rider Haggard's *She*.

Haggard's "She"—The Pillar of Fire (aka *La Danse du Feu/The Dance of Fire and La Colonne de Feu/The Column of Fire*, 1899). French. Silent. Produced by Georges Melies. Based on idea from the novel "She" by H. Rider Haggard.

She (1908). Edison. Silent.

She (1911). Thanhouser. Silent. *Lead Players:* James Cruze, Marguerite Snow.

She (1916). Barker. Silent. *Dir.* Will Barker & H. Leslie Lucoque. *Screenplay:* Nellie E. Lucoque. *LP:* Alice Delysia, Henry Victor, Sidney Brand.

She (1917). Fox. Silent. *Dir.* Kenean Buel. *Scr.* Mary Murillo. *LP:* Valeska Suratt. In this one, the fire finally turns Ayesha into an ape.

She (1925). Reciprocity Films/Artlee. Silent. *Dir.* Leander de Cordova. *Scr.* Walter Summers. *LP:* Betty Bythe, Caryle Blackwell, Marjorie Statler, Henry George.

She (1935). RKO. *Dir.* Irving Pichel & Lensing C. Holden. *Scr.* Ruth Rose. *LP:* Helen Gahagan, Randolph Scott, Helen Mack, Nigel Bruce, Gustav von Seyffertitz. The action in this version takes place in the Himalayas—instead of North Africa.

Malika Salomi (1953). Indian. Comedy Pictures. *Dir.* Mohamed Hussein (also screenplay). *LP:* Rupa Varman, Krishna Kumari, Kamran, Sheikh, Shafi, Nanda, Kamal Mohan. Based on H. Rider Haggard's "She".

She (1965). Hammer/7 Arts. Colour. Scope. *Dir.* Robert Day. *Scr.* David T. Chantler. *LP:* Ursula Andress, Peter Cushing, Bernard Cribbins, John Richardson, Rosenda Monteros, Christopher Lee, Andre Morell. This version sees the hero become immortal after bathing in the fire and having to remain in the lost city.

The Vengeance of She (1967). Hammer/7 Arts. Colour. *Dir.* Cliff Owen. *Scr.* Peter O'Donnell. *LP:* John Richardson, Olinka Berova, Edward Judd, Colin Blakely, Derek Godfrey. Based on characters created by H. Rider Haggard.

Those Fearless

Feature by Tise Vahimagi

The shadowy world of blood-seeking vampires versus the vampire-slayers and their crude arsenal of evil-destroying implements is a bizarre concoction blended from three basic sources.

Garnered from the areas of literature, folklore, and cinema, they have created an entire mythos of vampirolore and fearless vampire hunters. All three areas have

contributed greatly to the vampire legend, but it is the cinema's portrayal and interpretation of the theme that remains foremost in the mind.

Borrowing heavily from—and somewhat distorting for sake of drama—the world of vampire-related literature, and the folklore that the books were based on, the screenwriters invented a complete new landscape

of vampire fantasy and vampire stalkers. Most of the general rules regarding the vampire mythos actually derive from the imaginations of scriptwriters who—like their Pulp-fiction counterparts—created an entire universe to surround movie vampires, their backgrounds, and their opponents. From the basic groundwork laid out in the early days of cinema, most movies have conformed to the laws set down by their celluloid ancestors.

Bram Stoker's immortal novel contained much fuel for the scriptwriter's imagination, but the Hollywood studios of some thirty/forty years ago really set the theme and pace for future vampire movies. Accepting the cinema's world of vampire lore (somewhat like its own Werewolf lore), and all the rules and limitations that go with it, we find that this "universe" is made up of several different components—all of which would be interesting to trace through their various movie utilizations. For example, the art of destroying a vampire contains intriguing implications; who first discovered that a stake through the heart, running-water, sunlight, holy-water, the shadow of the cross, the crucifix, etc., etc., could destroy a vampire?

However, it is not this aspect of movie vampire mythology that we are exploring here. It is the second most important character in all vampire films—the vampire hunter.

In all forms of drama the relationship, the play-off between two intelligent adversaries is the most important factor of the story—all other components are merely props for these two characters. Sherlock Holmes has his Moriarty, Fu-Manchu has his Nayland Smith, Superman has his Luthor, James Bond his Blofeld—and Dracula has his Van Helsing.

The cinema industry has virtually made the vampire story its own, and the role of the vampire-hunter an art. The vampire hunter's bag of tricks, his arsenal, his methods and his character have been well-defined over countless movies. The vampire character is the central force that the story usually revolves around, yet vampires have always had an adversary of somewhat unique talents who relentlessly pursues his quarry throughout the story. Without this apparently personal feud there really is no story—the surrounding characters, victims, castles, and mid-European forests are merely a chess-board over which the two "specialists" play out their tactics.

The art of vampire-hunting (it's not a profession that can be easily explained to others) is superbly depicted and played-out in Polanski's excellent *Dance of the*

Below: Samuel Peaston (played by Peter Sallis, better-known for his role as Clegg in BBC TV's Last of the Summer Wine) recoils in terror as he realizes that bullets have no effect on the vampire Dracula. Taste the Blood of Dracula (1970). Right: Another of Dracula's adversaries, the Monsignor (Rupert Davies), tracked Dracula relentlessly through the 92 minutes of Dracula has Risen from the Grave (1968).



Vampire Hunters





Two differing version of Richard Matheson's book, "I Am Legend" have been filmed in recent years. The earlier version (*The Last Man on Earth*, 1964; below) starred Vincent Price as the vampire stalking Neville, the later version (*The Omega Man*, 1971; above) cast Charlton Heston in the same role.



As well as directing *The Fearless Vampire Killers* (British title: *Dance of the Vampires*), Roman Polanski also co-starred as Alfred, the inept assistant of the vampire-hunting Professor Abronsius (Jack McGowan).

Vampires (formerly entitled *The Fearless Vampire Killers*). This 1967 picture is a tribute, homage, and spoof on the gothic vampire films and their characters. The storyline of Polanski's film has its roots in Hammer's *Brides of Dracula* and *Kiss of the Vampire*; the characters in his version, however, come across as incredible caricatures of the accepted "Baron Meinster", the "Ravna" family, "Van Helsing", "Shandor", "Professor Zimmer", etc.

Dance of the Vampires concerns the attempts of two vampire hunters, Professor Abronsius (Jack McGowan) and his assistant Alfred (Roman Polanski), who set out to rescue an innkeeper's beautiful daughter (Sharon Tate) from the vampiric clutches of Count Krolock (Ferdie Mayne). Our two heroes are welcomed at Krolock's castle but have, in effect, walked into his web. The vampire devices are all very much in evidence, but displayed in a rather unique fashion. One of the most impressive scenes is during a ball at the



Another Hammer vampire killer, Professor Zimmer (Clifford Evans) actually used black magic to combat a coven of vampires led by Doctor Ravna (Noel Willman) in *Kiss of the Vampire* (1964).

castle—made up largely of inmates from the local graveyard—in which a large ballroom mirror reflects only the images of our three outsiders, yet all around them the "guests" fill the place out. There is also a very funny variation of an established theme where a smiling Jewish member of the undead approaches a crucifix-brandishing girl and gleefully admits, "You've got the wrong vampire!"

Polanski's film—next to *Captain Kronos*, possibly, which really goes off into a vampire-littered world of its own—brings out and makes obvious the absurd paraphernalia of movie vampire-hunting and destroying.

Dr. Abraham Van Helsing must be the original vampire-hunter, for he is part of the Bram Stoker package from which the general theme is derived. Van Helsing, unlike his counterparts, is aware that he really has only one enemy to destroy—Count Dracula. In the Doctor's book, the final destruction of Dracula means the end of vampirism in the world—and it is

toward this end that Van Helsing battles.

He has his own set of strict rules and regulations to which he adheres, demanding also that his confused assistants and companions perform likewise. Van Helsing's arsenal is quite varied and bizarre—but then, his quarry and the world it belongs to is also quite bizarre. Van Helsing is, in effect, a sane man struggling along in a crazy world (not unlike the situation created for Neville in Richard Matheson's novel, *I Am Legend*—but more on that later).

The whole Van Helsing-Vampire syndrome is, in itself, a curious one. Here we have a man of science, medicine and intellectual logic who not only accepts the premise of blood-sucking, undead creatures but actually devotes his life to fanatically pursuing and destroying them, using weapons and methods that come closer to religious beliefs than science. It is basically the old "voodoo-doll" story again—you have to *believe* in it before you can *respond* to it! Priests are really the more logical adversaries of vampires because both already conform to the same rules. Science, even Victorian science, does not enter into it—or rather, it shouldn't.

The two most memorable Van Helsing in the history of cinema must be Edward Van Sloan's portrayal for Universal during the 1930s and Peter Cushing's interpretation under the Hammer aegis. The same character but two entirely different characterisations; Van Sloan, appearing in *Dracula* (1931) and *Dracula's Daughter* (1936), played a sedate, advice-giving, thinking Van Helsing, while Cushing played the character as an immensely active, wholly energetic, action-packed Van Helsing. Edward Van Sloan may come closer to Stoker's original concept of the elderly Dutch doctor but, by way of comparison, one couldn't really imagine Van



A vampiress meets a grisly end in El Gran Amor del Conde Dracula (1972) which featured European master of the macabre Paul Nash as Count Dracula.



The night of the living dead. Neville (Vincent Price) attempts to keep his vampire enemies at bay with a wreath of garlic nailed to his front door in The Last Man on Earth (1964).

Sloan tearing around Castle Dracula, leaping onto and running along dining-tables, and hurling himself onto the drapes to let the sunlight in at the climax of *Horror of Dracula*.

Tod Browning's *Dracula*, unfortunately, doesn't allow Van Sloan's Dr. Van Helsing much activity, mainly due to the heavy-weight stage-to-screen production. Most of the interesting and exciting parts are merely referred to in passages of dialogue—the players are left to discuss weird events that supposedly take place off screen.

In this early version, the Van Helsing character acts as if he were simply trying to get a *confession* out of Dracula by trapping him with small mirrors and crucifixes in the drawing-room. It is only at the end, the Carfax Abbey sequences, that he physically sets about destroying the vampire—and then it all happens when the camera discreetly moves away to allow an off-screen groan from the Count.

Universal followed up *Dracula* some

five years later with *Dracula's Daughter*, with the main adversary this time being the title character, Countess Marya Zaleska (Gloria Holden). The beginning of the picture is the only interesting part, with the Count's daughter burning her father's body in quite an atmospheric sequence, and the (logical) arrest of Van Helsing after his performance at Carfax Abbey. Excepting the Zaroff-like presence of Irving Pichel's Sandor character, the rest of the film gets bogged down in a silly love-triangle melodrama. Van Helsing, once again, is more involved in the advice-giving than action department.

Peter Cushing's role of Van Helsing is by far the most exciting interpretation. Terry Fisher's *Dracula* lays out his role of the vampire-hunter and backs up the character by showing that Van Helsing is more or less alone in his beliefs and pursuits. The film tells us that Van Helsing has made a thorough study of the "disease" and has developed ways of handling it. The only problem is that the subject he's



Above: Paul (Christopher Matthews), though far from being a professional vampire-slayer, was Dracula's main adversary in the 1970 film *Scars of Dracula*. Below: Captain Kronos needed all his fighting prowess to defend himself against the enraged villagers, who believed him to be at the foot of the vampire epidemic in *Kronos* (1973).

dealing with, and the methods he is forced to employ, are so crude and unacceptable to the civilised world that he is often at logger heads with the people he depends on most for assistance.

One need only think back to the sequence in *Horror of Dracula* where Van Helsing has to ask for Michael Gough's help in "saving" Gough's vampiric sister. Once Van Helsing has made clear his theory of vampires and what must be done by way of a stake through the heart, Gough tears off in an outraged passage of disbelief, paranoia, guilt, and self-sacrifice.

Cushing's Van Helsing is a man who is frustrated in his every move to convince people that there is this dark world of vampires, and there exist only certain effective ways of dealing with them. *Brides of Dracula* sees him involved in performing his tasks with the minimum of explanation—obviously, by this time he's somewhat lost interest in trying to ally others to his cause. He almost regards the people that he's helping to protect as sheep. His is a one-man war.

The modern-day Hammer/Dracula vehicles (*Dracula AD 1972* and *Satanic Rites of Dracula*) unfortunately mis-use the Van Helsing character (despite being a descendant) to the point where he is just another "hero" figure—for that matter, it could be any police-chief or routine leading-man. Whatever magic the Cushing Van Helsing character contained during his *Dracula Brides of Dracula* days is now quite out-of-context.

In Hammer's *Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires*, despite the 1904 setting, the glory that should have been Van Helsing's actually went to David Chiang and the other Martial Arts performers. On reflection, this picture could have done without the presence of Van Helsing—a sad farewell to the character who once took on similar creatures single-handedly, and with as much energy.





Peter Cushing—Vampire-Hunter. Above: General Spielsdorf was the father of one of Carmilla Karnstein's victims in *The Vampire Lovers* (1970) thereby earning the privilege of finally ending Carmilla's reign of terror. Below: Cushing as perhaps the most famous vampire-killer of all, Dr. Laurence Van Helsing, in Hammer's *Brides of Dracula* (1960).

Two other notable, though less flamboyant, Van Helsingians turn up in Jesus Franco's *El Conde Dracula* (with Herbert Lom playing it closer to Van Sloan than Cushing) and Dan Curtis' *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (with Nigel Davenport matched against Jack Palance's vampiric Count). While Peter Cushing was given almost free-rein with his interpretation, both Lom and Davenport were confined within the characterisation set out in Stoker's novel.

In 1933 there seemed to be some hope in getting another Van Helsing-like vampire-hunter off the ground with *Captain Kronos* but any follow-up series has yet to appear. Set in the early 19th century, dashing young Kronos (Horst Janson) and his vampire-stalking partner, Professor Grost (John Cater), supposedly travel the land on the look-out for vampiric deeds. These two are, presumably, specialists in their unique field, and carry with them a most unusual armoury of weapons and methods. At one point in the story they are in the painful position of having to kill an old friend because he has fallen victim to a vampire—they make several grisly, but unsuccessful, attempts to kill

him before accidentally impaling the victim on a stake-sized crucifix. Where Kronos and his associates fail is in the action department; their operations are all deeply prepared and methodical—they lack the sudden sprints of activity that made Peter Cushing/Van Helsing's hectic days much more exciting.

Kiss of the Vampire, from Hammer in '64, presented Professor Zimmer (Clifford Evans) as a sort of Van Helsing-type vampire-killer. Zimmer only stalks in and out of the film for most of the story, but at the end he conjures up a swarm of vampire-bats and directs them to attack the principal circle of vampires at a remote chateau.

Mircalla Carmilla Karnstein also faced two strong adversaries, in the form of Douglas Wilmer's Baron Hartog (*The Vampire Lovers*) and Peter Cushing's Gustav Weil (in *Twins of Evil*). *The Vampire Lovers* (1970) actually featured two vampire-hunters—Baron Hartog was the main opponent throughout the film, but it took General Spielsdorf (Cushing, again) to complete the destruction of the female vampire (Ingrid Pitt). The character of Gustav Weil in *Twins of Evil* (1971) is even more irregular than the others. This witch and vampire hunter being related more closely to Matthew Hopkins (*Witchfinder General*) than to a Van Helsing.

Priests are the real and obvious adversaries of the vampire hordes—their knowledge of the "enemy", and their dedication to good-over-evil makes them prime opponents. However, not all priests are brave and adventurous, and some are even weak enough to come under the spell of evil (as seen in *Dracula Has Risen From the Grave*). Andrew Keir's Father Sandor (pronounced Shandor), in *Dracula Prince of Darkness* (1966), finds himself in a similar position to Professor Zimmer—protecting naive travellers from vampires, this time Count Dracula himself. From the outset, Sandor takes charge and knows exactly what to do, although his actions (as a member of the religious order) are somewhat unorthodox. Rupert Davies' Monsignor continues the battle against Dracula, though much more restrained, in *Dracula Has Risen From the Grave* (1968). He not only has the welfare of the local people to worry about but also a local cleric who has become Dracula's slave. From these two principal men of the Church, it is Father Sandor who emerges most capable of handling a bizarre situation. When dealing with the Count himself, Sandor comes closest to the Van Helsing style.

Crossing over to the Western genre, Eric Fleming's preacher has a showdown with a vampire gunfighter in *Curse of the Undead* (1959). The gunfighter, Drake Robery (Michael Pate), appears successful in his many shootouts because regular bullets cannot harm him—he is Don Drago Robles, a 100-year-old vampire.



The preacher finally gets wise to this and dispatches Robles by shooting him with a bullet tipped with a splinter from the Cross of Christ.

Science-fiction offered a couple of irregular vampire killers, most notably in *The Thing From Another World* (1951). Here the quarry (the Thing) happens to be a blood-lusting alien. The setting is a remote Arctic base-camp, and the role of the "vampire-hunters" is taken by a small group of American Air Force men. The alien-vampire is, after many close encounters, finally destroyed by high-powered electrocution.

Richard Matheson's highly-impressive novel, *I Am Legend*, has inspired no less than two movie adaptations: *The Last Man On Earth* (1964) and *The Omega Man* (1971).

Here, at least in his original novel, Matheson proved once more why he is such a respected writer. He took the vampire-hunting theme and twisted it totally inside out. The world (through a gross epidemic) becomes populated by day sleeping, night stalking "vampires", and Neville (Vincent Price in the 1964 movie; Charlton Heston in the later version) as the supposed hero, their hunter.

But the hero/villain position is totally reversed. In a world completely filled with vampires, the man who tracks them to their lairs only to stake/blast/kill them while they sleep must surely be the villain. As invariably happens, this ironic twist was lost in the transition to the screen, with the latter version involving itself more with ecological questions than either Matheson's concept or the straight vampire-hunting of the former.

Memorable vampire stories on the



Count Dracula's grim faced nemesis, Father Sander (played by Andrew Keir in *Dracula—Prince of Darkness*, 1966) applies himself to the grisly task of vampire-slaying.

small-screen are quite rare, making the tv vampire hunter an even rarer character. Of course, there have been various adaptations of Stoker's *Dracula* ('70-'73, and '77, in just the last ten years), but these contain a controlled, almost stagey, Van Helsing character. On the other hand Rod Ser-

ling's *Night Gallery* (1970-72) brought forth a few vampire segments—but these were mostly comic variations.

However, there is one great exception in small-screen vampire hunters—and that emerged in the form of news-hound Carl Kolchak in the 1972 made-for-tv movie, *The Night Stalker*.

Kolchak (Darren McGavin) is convinced that contemporary Las Vegas is the hunting ground for a modern-day vampire. Needless to say, the authorities don't accept any part of Kolchak's theory—right down the line to when Kolchak himself discovers the vampire (Barry Atwater) and destroys it. This tv film scored the highest-ever viewing ratings at that time—and this success, along with McGavin's own interest in the show, became the starting-point for a spin-off series, *Kolchak: The Night Stalker* (1974-75).

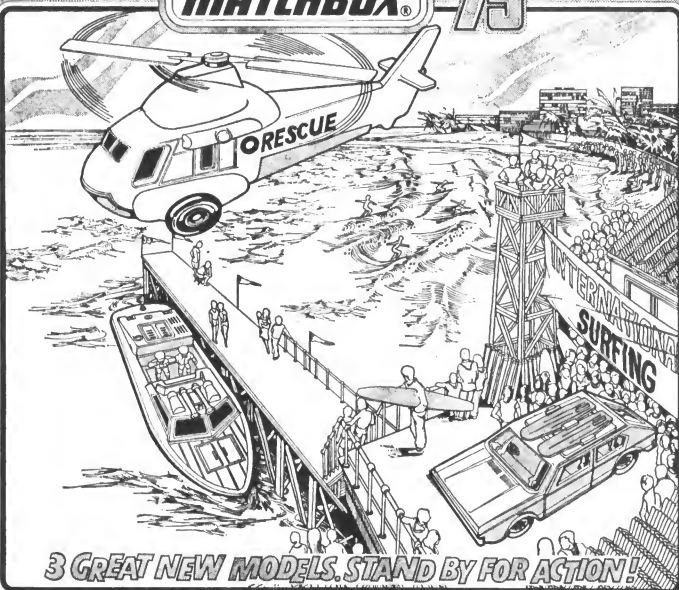
McGavin's Carl Kolchak (now based in Chicago) stalked every kind of monster during the short-lived series, but only one segment directly dealt with vampirism. *The Vampire* episode featured a girl who was one of the victims in *The Night Stalker* setting, and who now returned from the dead as a female vampire. Though Kolchak himself was far from "fearless", the character and his modern-day landscape interwoven with mythological creatures made an unusual and exciting blend. To date Kolchak is probably the last great "vampire hunter".



Those fearless vampire-killers, Alfred (Roman Polanski) and Professor Abronsius (Jack McGowan) appear to be absolutely petrified in *Dance of the Vampires* (1967).

MATCHBOX®

75



3 GREAT NEW MODELS. STAND BY FOR ACTION!

3 great new "MATCHBOX" 75 models to collect with super all-action features. 39p each*



MR. 2 VW GOLF

Really fine detail plus tow bar, two removable surfboards and superfast wheels.



MR. 52 POLICE LAUNCH

Two crewmen, great detail, and superfast waterline wheels.



MR. 75 SEASPRITE HELICOPTER

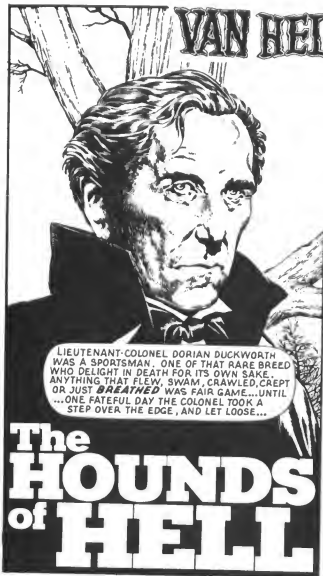
Wheels and rotor turn for real live action.

THE ONES THAT FEEL LIKE REAL!

*Price correct at time of going to press.

"MATCHBOX" is the registered trademark of Lesney Products & Co. Ltd. Lee Conservancy Road, London E9 5PA.

VAN HELSING'S TERROR TALES



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DORIAN DUCKWORTH WAS A SPORTSMAN. ONE OF THAT RARE BREED WHO DELIGHT IN DEATH FOR ITS OWN SAKE. ANYTHING THAT FLEW, SWAM, CRAWLED, CREEPT OR JUST **BREATHED** WAS FAIR GAME...UNTIL ...ONE FATEFUL DAY THE COLONEL TOOK A STEP OVER THE EDGE, AND LET LOOSE....

The HOUNDS of HELL

THE FOLLOWING MORNING FOUND DUCKWORTH AT HIS NEXT SCENE OF DESTRUCTION...



WHAT'S THIS COLONEL? NOT RIDING TODAY?

GOT A TOUCH OF BLASTED GOIT... NEVER MIND, I'LL FOLLOW ON IN THE OLD BUS! WON'T MISS ANYTHING!

SOON, THE HUNT WAS IN FULL CRY... THE BAYING OF HOUNDS WAS MUSIC TO DUCKWORTH'S EARS...

HELLO... SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE ONTO SOMETHING! BY JOVE, I WISH I WAS DOWN THERE WITH 'EM!

BACK, DONNER... BACK OFF, BLITZEN... GOOD DOGS! BACK, DAMN YOU!



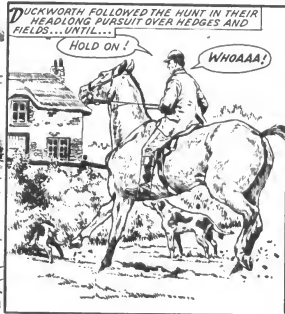
HOW'S THAT FOR A HARE? NEARLY RIPPED THE DAMN THING IN TWO! HAW, HAW!



DUCKWORTH FOLLOWED THE HUNT IN THEIR HEADLONG PURSUIT OVER HEDGES AND FIELDS...UNTIL...

HOLD ON!

WHOOAAA!





DUCKWORTH ARRIVED ON
THE SCENE...



BEFORE THE SHOCKED HUNSMEN
COULD MOVE...





HAH! ALL THIS FUSS OVER SOME OLD MEDDLER SHE WAS PROBABLY A WITCH ANYWAY!



GOOD LORD! LOOKS LIKE THE OLD BAT REALLY WAS A WITCH!



THEN DUCKWORTH CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING IN DUSTY OLD MIRROR ON THE WALL... SOMETHING THAT FROZE HIS BLOOD!

OH MY GOD!

BLIND WITH TERROR, DUCKWORTH STUMBLED FROM THE COTTAGE...



GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

FORGETTING EVERYTHING IN HIS PANIC, DUCKWORTH RAN UNTIL HE COULD RUN NO MORE...



GASP! JUST CAN'T GO ON... I'M DONE FOR...

IT WAS THEN HE HEARD IT...



NO! NO! GASP...IT CAN'T BE!



HOOFBEATS OF AN UNEARTHLY RIDER WHOSE HORN ECHOED THE HOWL WRENCHED FROM DUCKWORTH'S STRAINING THROAT...



TARAAAAAAGH!



NOBODY EVER KNEW HOW DUCKWORTH ENDED UP AT THE FOOT OF A CLIFF. SOME SAY HE FELL, OTHERS SAY HE WAS PUSHED. BUT COME I'D JUST SAY HE'D DROVE TO GROUND... ER... THE HAPPY HUNTING GROUND, THAT IS...

The End

HoH COLLECTOR'S ITEM BACK ISSUES



HoH1 45p
Illustrated adaptation of 1958 *Dracula*; Kronos; Lee biography & filmography; 1930s FX; Brazilian Horror, etc.



HoH2 45p
Curse of Frankenstein Part 1; Devil a Daughter; At Hammer studios; Hammer make-up; Italian Horror,



HoH7 45p
Twins of Evil strip, The Omen, Karloff, The Werewolf, Female Vampires, Devil's Men, Wonder Woman, etc.



HoH8 45p
Quatermass strip, King Kong, Jekyll & Hyde, Hammer Science Fiction films, Lee's NEW *Dracula*, etc....



HoH9 45p
Quatermass Pt 2; Carrie, Kong (1931), Seizure, Squirm, De Palma, Living Dead At Manchester.



HoH10 45p
Curse of the Werewolf strip, Close Encounters, Sentinel, Fu Manchu, Son of Kong, Shadowman.



HoH11 45p
Gorgon strip Part 1, Harryhausen speaks, Cushing AS *Dracula*, Wizards, Sinbad, Zoltan, Burt Offerings.



HoH12 45p
Gorgon strip Part 2, Heretic, Blood City, Witchfinder General, 1933 Invisible Man, Face of Frankenstein, etc....



HoH13 45p
Plague of Zombies strip; Star Wars; Uncanny; Paris Festival; People That Time Forgot; Godzilla; Zombies.



HoH14 45p
Million Years BC strip; John Carradine; Romero on Martin review; Dinosaur films; Paris Festival Films.



HoH15 45p
Mummy's Shroud strip, Dr. Moreau, Audrey Rose, Blue Sunshine, Fanatic, Mummy's feature, Frankenstein etc.



HoH16 45p
Special Star Wars issue; Rabid, Psycho storyboards, Homebodies, Carreras interview, New Shandor strip.



HoH17 45p
Vampire Circus strip, Carreras 2, Harryhausen storyboards, Cathy's Curse, Child, Fairgrounds of Horror.



HoH18 45p
Frankenstein, *Dracula* and Werewolf strip, Cushing interview, History of Hammer I, Rattlers, Deep Red.



HoH19 45p
Reptile strip, Cushing filmography, History of Hammer II, Peking Man and Dinosaurs & Monster Birds.



HoH20 45p
Kronos strip, Incredible Melting Man and Savage Bees reviews, Vampire Hunters feature, Hammer III

Back issues of **HoH** are available at the bargain price of 45p (\$1 outside UK) each. This includes postage, packing and handling. Foreign orders will be sent via seamount and cheques/money orders should be made payable to Top Sellers Ltd. Allow up to 2 weeks for delivery within UK, 8 weeks overseas. Address as below.
Please note: We are sorry to say that due to postal increases, all prices of books and magazines listed this issue invalidate those given in any back numbers.

Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger



SINBAD AND THE EYE OF THE TIGER

Celebrating the latest, greatest, film fantasy event from the talented mind and hands of Ray Harryhausen, a magazine devoted entirely to fantasy fiction's first sword and sorcery hero.

This action-packed magazine includes a 16½ x 11½ inch full colour poster painting of Sinbad in action, the full film told in a 16-page comic (by **HoH** regulars Benny Aldrich & Ian 'Kronos' Gibson), a full-colour article/interview with monster-maker supreme, Ray Harryhausen by John Brosnan, and 'The Arabian Nights on Film' - a colourful look back at Sinbad movies from 1924 to 1977 by Tise Vahimagi. All this can be yours for only 45p including postage (\$1 outside UK - all copies sent seamount). From:

HoH BARGAIN BASEMENT, 135 Wardour Street, London W1V 4AP, England



Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger

COLUMBIA FILMS S.A.B. PRÉSENTE:

"LA REVANCHE DE FRANKENSTEIN"

"THE REVENGE OF FRANKENSTEIN"



TECHNICOLOR®



avec

PETER CUSHING ★ EUNICE GAYSON
FRANCIS MATTHEWS ★ MICHAEL GWYNN

Scénario de JIMMY SANGSTER · Production: ANTHONY HINDS · Mise en scène: TERENCE FISHER

UNE PRODUCTION HAMMER FILM

DE WRAAK VAN FRANKENSTEIN

